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DEFENSE CHIEF COMMENTS ON UPCOMING PRC VISIT

OW280955 Tokyo KYODO in English 0936 GMT 28 May 87

[Text] Tokyo, May 28 KYODO -- Japanese Defense Agency Director General Yuko Kurihara said Thursday he will assure Chinese leaders during his visit to China starting Friday that Japan will not become a military power.

Kurihara, a state minister, will visit China May 29-June 4 at the invitation of Chinese Defense Minister Zhang Aiping -- the first visit to China by a Japanese Defense Agency chief, agency officials said.

Chinese leaders recently criticized Japan's decision to scrap its 10-year-old policy to limit defense spending below 1 percent of the national product (GNP).

Referring to that issue, Kurihara told reporters: "Japan's postwar political system differs from that of the prewar time, and Japan is maintaining minimum and necessary defense capability within the framework of the Constitution."

Kurihara said he would like to get China's understanding by explaining that Japan would not become a military power.

He said a close relationship exists between Japan and China both historically and geographically and that China is one of Japan's most important neighboring countries.

He also said it is meaningful itself for a Japanese defense agency chief to visit China.

However, Kurihara denied speculation that his China visit may promote military exchanges between the two countries, saying that Japan must refrain from maintaining close military relationship with other countries, except for the United States.

Asked about the dispute between Japan and China over the ownership of a Chinese student dormitory in Kyoto which was awarded to Taiwan in a Japanese court ruling in February, Kurihara only said if the issue became a topic during the talks, he would give his view on the matter.

He is expected to hold talks with Chinese senior leader Deng Xiaoping, Premier Zhao Ziyang and People's Liberation Army's [PLA] Chief of General Staff Yang Deshi, the Defense Agency officials said.

Kurihara is scheduled to visit PLA's units in Chengdu, Hangzhou and Shanghai after talking with Chinese leaders in Beijing, the officials said.

PRC LAWYERS TO ARGUE DORMITORY RULING ILLEGAL

OW271231 Tokyo KYODO in English 1208 GMT 27 May 87

[Text] Tokyo, May 27 KYODO -- A group of lawyers defending China over a controversial real-estate dispute has compiled a report and said a recent court ruling runs counter to Japan's Constitution, their spokesman said Wednesday.

The spokesman was referring to the Osaka High Court decision in February that awarded a Chinese student dormitory in Kyoto to Taiwan.

This has developed into a diplomatic issue between Japan and China, with Beijing demanding Japanese action to solve the dispute and Tokyo rejecting it.

The spokesman said the court decision recognizes two governments in China in violation of the Constitution which obliges the state to abide by treaties and international law.

This position will be presented in the form of a statement of grounds for the final appeal to the Supreme Court Saturday, he said.

The court decision said ownership of the dormitory was not affected by Japan's switch of diplomatic recognition from Taiwan to Beijing in 1972.

The statement said because of the diplomatic change, Taiwan can no longer be a party to lawsuits.

The brief contends that it is a principle of international law that a new government can inherit state properties, both public and private, from an old government.

The court decision that China can inherit part of Taiwanese properties runs counter to the 1972 Japan-China joint statement which said Beijing is the sole legitimate government of China, the statement said.

3 KGB AGENTS INVOLVED IN COCOM VIOLATION

OW280553 Tokyo KYODO in English 0530 GMT 28 May 87

[Text] Tokyo, May 28 KYODO -- Three KGB agents were discovered to have been involved in exports of Japanese high-tech machines and a computer program to the Soviet Union in violation of regulations of the Coordinating Committee (COCOM) for Export Control, Tokyo Police said Thursday. Cocom was established in 1949 by Western bloc countries to keep strategic goods out of Eastern bloc nations. Japan is one of Cocom's 17 member countries.

Two senior officials of Toshiba Machine Co., the Tokyo-based maker of the machine tools in question, were arrested Wednesday in connection with the illegal exports carried out from 1982 to 1983,

The machines have been allegedly used to lower the propeller noise produced by Soviet nuclear-powered submarines, making them harder to detect and to identify.

Police officials identified the three KGB agents as Igor A. Osipov, vice president of the Technology Machine Import Corp., Anatoliy P. Troitskiy, vice president of the Industrial Machine Export-Import Corp., and Vyacheslav A. Sedov, vice president of the External Science and Technology Exchange Corp. Police said Toshiba exported the sophisticated machine tools and computer program at Osipov's request. The three are all KGB agents according to police.

Police said Osipov first mentioned the machine import deal in 1979 through the Moscow office of Wako Koeki, a Tokyo-based trading firm doing business mainly with communist countries. The deal was later handled by Troitskiy, police said, adding the two agents had frequently met Toshiba officials in the Soviet Union. Sedov was working for the Soviet Union's Office of Trade Representatives in Tokyo from 1964 to 1969, according to police.

Police also said two of the four large machine tools exported in violation of Cocom regulations have been installed at the Baltic Naval Shipyard in Leningrad. The location of the two other machines is unknown, police added. Toshiba exported the four machines for 3.7 billion yen through C. Itoh and Co. has been ordered by the international trade and industry minister not to export machine tools to communist countries for three months. Other police officials meanwhile, said Toshiba Machine is suspected of having destroyed important business deal. Toshiba Machine is an affiliate of Toshiba Corp., Japan's second largest electric machinery maker.

Toshiba Officials Admit Guilt

OW271039 Tokyo KYODO in English 1037 GMT 27 May 87

[Text] Tokyo, May 27 KYODO -- Two Toshiba Machine Co. officials Wednesday confessed their company illegally exported high-tech machine tools and a computer program to the Soviet Union although it was well aware of the deal's illegality, police said.

GOVERNMENT TO ADOPT ECONOMIC PACKAGE 29 MAY

OW280731 Tokyo KYODO in English 0723 GMT 28 May 87

[Text] Tokyo, May 28 KYODO -- The Japanese Government will formally adopt a package of emergency fiscal measures worth 5.3 trillion yen Friday [29 May] in an attempt to stimulate the domestic economy, government sources said Thursday.

The 10-point economic-stimulus plan will include 4 trillion yen for additional public works projects, more than 1-trillion-yen in tax reductions, an expansion of housing construction and large-scale import promotion programs.

The pump-priming package will be placed before an extraordinary Diet session, scheduled to open July 6, after government economic ministers give it their final approval Friday morning.

The draft proposal states that Japan must "formulate external relationships more harmonious, rectify trade imbalances as well as stimulate the economy," according to the sources.

Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone also plans to present the domestic pump-priming programs to the economic summit meeting of the Group of Seven western industrialized nations in Venice early next June.

The 4 trillion yen in additional public works expenditures includes 250 billion yen for improvements in public education and research facilities and 700 billion yen more for housing loans offered by the Governmental Housing Loan Corp.

According to the sources, the 10-point pump-priming package also includes:

- An amount of 1 billion yen in added government emergency imports of airplanes and supercomputers.
- Doubling of the tax free quota for Japanese travelling abroad from July 1.
- Achievement of the official goal to extend more than 7.6 billion dollars worth of Official Development Assistance (ODA) in 1990 rather than in 1992 as called for in an earlier government plan.
- Recycling of 30 billion dollars as aid to developing countries.

PRIME MINISTER HOPES TO INTRODUCE INDIRECT TAX

OW271137 Tokyo KYODO in English 1048 GMT 27 May 87

[Text] Tokyo, May 27 KYODO -- Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone hopes to introduce a new indirect tax package in an extraordinary Diet in September to replace the sales tax proposal which the government was forced to drop in the Diet session just ended, officials said Wednesday.

The new session is expected to open around July 6.

Despite calls by lawmakers for Nakasone to take responsibility for the setback the ruling Liberal Democratic Party suffered in the April unified local elections, recent remarks by the premier are seen as expressing his determination to keep up the political momentum until his fifth year as party president ends October 30.

The extraordinary Diet session is expected to consider recommendations on tax reform issues by a tax reform panel established last Monday within the House of Representatives.

As a means of maintaining his political power base within the LDP, Nakasone also aims at implementing a flurry of pump-priming economic emergency measures including the compilation of a 5 trillion yen supplementary budget.

The government is considering the issuance of government bonds and sales of government held stock in the privatized Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp. as sources of revenue, the officials said.

Following the June 8-10 summit meeting in Venice of the seven main industrialized democracies, which Nakasone sees as his last major appearance on the international political stage, he wishes to introduce the new indirect tax plan to offset a planned cut in income tax, officials say. But his plans are thought to depend on moves by the LDP's three "New Leaders" -- Secretary-General Noboru Takeshita, Executive Council Chairman Shintaro Abe and Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa -- all aspirants to succeeding him as party president, a job which carries with it the premiership.

Abe has made clear his view that [the] tax reform job should now be left to Nakasone's successor, urging the prime minister to step down when his term ends October 30. With moves by presidential hopefuls intensifying within the LDP, Nakasone is expected to make a lastditch effort to get his tax reform plans approved during the new Diet session, officials said.

COMMUNIQUE 'TEXT' ON KIM IL-SONG'S CHINA VISIT

SK280443 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0413 GMT 28 May 87

[Text] Pyongyang May 28 (KCNA) -- A communique on a meeting of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea was made public.

Follows the full text of the communique:

The Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea met on May 27.

The meeting was presided over by the great leader of our party and our people Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea.

Attending the meeting were members of the Presidium of the Political Bureau, and members and alternate members of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee. Secretaries of the party Central Committee were present as observers.

The meeting discussed the results of the official goodwill visit to China by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, upon the invitation of Comrade Zhao Ziyang, acting general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, and Comrade Li Xiannian, president of the People's Republic of China.

The meeting noted with high appreciation and deep satisfaction that the China visit of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song took place very successfully amid the particular concern of the party and state leaders of China and bore good results.

It is a long-standing tradition for the party and state leaders of Korea and China to frequently visit each other, deepening friendship and trust and strengthening solidarity and cooperation.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song paid an official goodwill visit to China again this time after his official state visit there in September 1982. This was aimed at further tightening and developing the bonds of friendship and solidarity that closely link the peoples of the two countries.

The Political Bureau meeting stressed that the China visit of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song was paid at a very opportune time in keeping with the desire of the parties and peoples of the two countries and this was one more epochal event in consolidating blood-sealed traditional Korea-China friendship and further strengthening the common struggle of the two peoples for peace, socialism and communism.

During his stay in China, the respected leader Comrade Kim Il-song had significant meetings and talks with Comrades Deng Xiaoping, Zhao Ziyang and Li Xiannian in a warm and friendly atmosphere and reached consensus of views on all matters discussed.

Stating that the shining success of the China visit this time powerfully demonstrated once again that Korea-China friendship is an indestructible one which does not shake under any circumstances but warmly pulsates a'ways, the meeting expressed deep thanks to the party and state leaders of China for having received the respected leader Comrade Kim Il-song most warmly and accorded him sincerest hospitality with high respect, fraternal intimacy and deep feelings of trust.

The party and state leaders of China, during the meetings and talks in Beijing, heartily wished the Korean people fresh and more brilliant success in their endeavours to attain the grand targets of the Third Seven-Year Plan, saying that the Korean people were effecting tremendous changes in socialist construction.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song in his conversations with Chinese leaders, congratulated the Chinese people on their great successes in achieving stability and unity of the whole country and building socialism with Chinese characteristics after the founding of socialist New China, especially after the Third Plenary Meeting of the Eleventh Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, and said these successes show that the line and policy of the CPC to maintain four cardinal principles and carry out four modernisations are a correct policy proceeding from the specific conditions of China.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song sincerely wished the Chinese people still greater success in their future struggle to convert China into a highly civilized, highly democratic socialist power by creditably attaining the long-term goal of socialist modernization.

The Political Bureau meeting pointed out that for the peoples of Korea and China to successfully build socialism to suit the specific conditions of their countries, proceeding from then, constitutes a big contribution to augmenting the socialist forces as a whole and promoting the common cause of the progressive peoples in Asia and the world for peace and socialism.

At the talks with the Chinese party and state leaders, mutual support and firm solidarity were manifested for the struggle for national reunification being waged by both peoples and wide-range views were exchanged on the international issues of common concern.

The Chinese party and state leaders strongly supported the efforts of our party and the government of the republic for the relaxation of the situation and stability on the Korean peninsula and the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea, particularly the proposal for achieving the reunification of the country in the form of confederation, the proposal for tripartite talks and the proposal for North-South high-level political and military talks put forward by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song.

The Chinese leaders stressed that they would not allow any attempt to create "two Koreas" and perpetuate the division of Korea such as the scheme for the so-called "cross recognition" and there would be no change in the Chinese party's principled stand of supporting Korean reunification and recognizing only one Korea.

Noting that the Chinese party and government in recent years have correctly solved the problem of the restoration of sovereignty over Hong Kong and Macao and achieved good results in the work for peacefully realizing the reunification of the country, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song expressed full support to the Chinese people's just struggle to achieve the complete reunification of the whole of China by recovering Taiwan, not allowing any attempt to create "two Chinas".

Exchanging views on the present situation and the international issues, the Chinese leaders noted that Democratic People's Republic of Korea is playing [an] ever bigger role in the international political arena by actively pursuing a foreign policy based on the idea of independence, friendship and peace, and its international position is rising.

The great leader pointed to the contribution made by the Chinese party and government to the universal cause of peace by pursuing an independent, sovereign and peaceful foreign policy.

The great leader and the Chinese leaders said the nature of imperialism does not change and stressed the need to heighten vigilance against the growing forces of aggression and war in Asia today and clarified their firm stand to further intensify the common struggle to safeguard peace in the Asia-Pacific region and the rest of the world.

The Political Bureau meeting stressed that it is an important guarantee for the victory of the cause of peace, socialism and communism against imperialism to strengthen comradely friendship and unity and close cooperation between fraternal parties and countries.

The meeting noted with great joy that Comrade Zhao Ziyang, acting general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, accepted with pleasure the kind invitation of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song to visit Korea.

The China visit of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song clearly showed that the fraternal friendship between the two peoples based on the friendship of the past days of hard trials when they shared life and death, weal and woe, shedding blood together, continues to grow deeper and the relations between the two parties are excellent, and the visit recorded a brilliant page in the annals of Korea-China friendship.

The Political Bureau meeting stressed that it was an unshaken policy of our party and government and the unanimous will of our people to bring into bloom and develop on an overall scale the unbreakable fraternal friendship and solidarity between the Korean and Chinese peoples through generations, just as the Chinese leaders stated when they met the great leader that it was the unanimous creed of the Chinese party and people to constantly consolidate and develop through generations the Sino-Korean friendship which had withstood all tests of history.

Expressing unanimous approval of the results of the China visit of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, the Political Bureau meeting evinced the resolution to constantly consolidate these successes and expand the Korean-Chinese relations of friendship and develop them to a higher stage in the future and adopted a relevant decision on this.

The meeting of the Political Bureau of the party Central Committee expressed the belief that the party organisations at all levels and functionaries, all the party members and working people, under the wise leadership of the party, will powerfully accelerate the revolution and construction through self-reliance and hard struggle, holding ever higher the banner of the chuche idea, the banner of the three revolutions, ideological, technical and cultural, and thereby make a greater contribution to the acceleration of the complete victory of socialism and the independent and peaceful reunification of the country and the promotion of the common cause of mankind for peace and democracy, national independence and socialism and communism.

DPRK TALKS DELEGATIONS ISSUE JOINT STATEMENT

SK250015 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 2300 GMT 23 May 87

[Joint statement adopted by the delegation of the Red Cross Society of the DPRK, the delegation of the North side to the North-South economic talks, and the delegation of the North side to the preliminary contacts for North-South parliamentary talks, at a joint meeting held in Pyongyang on 23 May]

[Text] In South Korea today, the criminal maneuvers of denying dialogue and reunification have been perpetrated more unscrupulously. This has aroused strong anger and indignation among the all fellow countrymen.

As already reported, on 15 May the minister of the National Unification Board of South Korea, announcing the so-called official view of the government on the question of reunification, not only denied that the reunification of the country is the greatest task of the nation, transcending ideology and system, but also clamored about reunification under the system of liberal democracy, distorted the 4 July North-South joint statement as the logic of dialogue and coexistence, and stressed the state policy of anticommunism again.

This is not only an open declaration announcing the complete rejection of North-South dialogue and the advancement toward the road of confrontation, war, and division, but is also a treacherous and treasonous act which has thrown a wet blanket over the ardent desire for reunification of the fellow countrymen, who deeply desire the independent and peaceful reunification of the country. It has openly challenged those of us who have made all possible efforts to make North-South dialogue successful.

The delegation of the Red Cross Society of the DPRK, the delegation of the North side to the preliminary contacts for North-South parliamentary talks, together with all fellow countrymen, sternly condemn the intolerable criminal maneuvers of the South Korean ruling bunch who have openly challenged dialogue, peace, and reunification using those who carry the signboard of unification on their shoulders.

All dialogues between the North and South should seek the peaceful reunification of the country without fail. The objective of North-South dialogue and its significance lie precisely in achieving great national unity, transcending the differences in ideologies, ideals, and systems, and in resolving the reunification of the country by peaceful means.

The ultimate objective and mission of such non-political talks as humanitarian talks and economic talks, let alone such political talks as parliamentary talks, are to eliminate misunderstanding and distrust between the North and South, to reconnect the severed ties of the nation, and thus to reunify the divided country peacefully.

This is why, 15 years ago when the delegations of the North and South unfolded the first chapter of dialogue, they confirmed the achievement of the reunification of the country as the supreme task of the nation; agreed on the three principles of independence, peaceful reunification, and great national unity as the basic principle of national reunification; and adopted these three principles as the joint reunification platform of the nation through the 4 July joint statement.

The historic North-South dialogue began with the goal of national unity and reunification. However, if either the North and South tries to seek confrontation, war, and division, this will constitute an act of rejecting dialogue itself and a breach of faith betraying the desire of the nation.

The South Korean authorities have laid bare their antinational stand of denying the dialogue for reunification by distorting the 4 July joint statement as the logic of coexistence and by advocating the reunification of the country by prevailing over communism under a system of liberal democracy.

The South Korean rulers' so-called official view on the question of reunification has clearly laid bare to the people of the world once again the reason why the North-South dialogue in our country has failed to produce due fruition thus far, and why a greater obstacle is being created on the road of reunification with each passing day.

In the past, our side, proceeding from the desire to open the road of peaceful reunification through dialogue and negotiations, not only has actively proposed North-South dialogue, but has also made all possible sincere efforts for its success by unstintingly devoting time and energy.

In particular, with our relief steps for the South Korean flood victims as the occasion, we actively arranged the North-South Red Cross talks to link the hard-won contemporary atmosphere of detente and reconciliation to North-South dialogue. Later, we also proposed North-South parliamentary talks and realized the preliminary contact for the talks.

Treasuring the North-South Red Cross talks and multilateral North-South dialogue that were held again 12 years after the rupture of dialogue in the 1970's, our side has made all possible sincere efforts to lead them to success at any cost. Our side has put forward an epochal proposal to organize a joint committee for North-South economic cooperation with the vice premiers of both sides as cochairmen, and thus to realize economic cooperation and exchange between the North and South in a broad and earnest manner. In the Red Cross talks, our side has put forward a proposal for realizing the free travel of families and relatives separated in the North and South and a policy of discussion of the five-point agenda items in a comprehensive manner. In the preliminary contact for North-South parliamentary talks, our side has also proposed discussion of the problem of adopting a joint declaration of nonaggression between the North and South in order to resolve within our nation the problem of ensuring the peace of the country, if possible, as it has been impossible to hold tripartite talks for guaranteeing durable peace in the country.

If all of these constructive proposals put forward by our side had been smoothly resolved, a wide road making it possible to develop the economies of the North and South in a unified manner would now be opened, North-South parliamentary talks could now be arranged, and a series of important problems arising in removing military confrontation and in achieving the reunification of the country could be resolved. In particular, in the North-South Red Cross talks, the free travel, visits, and meetings between separated families and relatives could be realized and the fellow countrymen's sufferings caused by national division could be alleviated to some degree.

However, the South Korean authorities have assumed a stand and attitude which are different from ours. Proceeding from the antinational stand of opposing dialogue for reunification, they persistently used delay tactics in the site of talks and frantically kicked off the anticommunist confrontation commotion and the large-scale war exercise commotion against us, one party of dialogue, outside the site of talks. Thus, they made North-South dialogue impossible.

Because of the maneuvers of the South Korean authorities against dialogue and reunification despite our patient and magnanimous efforts, multilateral North-South dialogue was held only for 1 year, has been suspended ever since, and has not yet been resumed.

The so-called official view of the government that the South Korean rulers announced at this time shows that they have admitted that the vicissitudes in North-South dialogue and the failure of its resumption are precisely and totally their responsibility. In particular, the National Unification Board and the DJP in South Korea have been playing the role of government-patronized propagandists in opposing dialogue, peace, and reunification. Thus, they have completely laid bare this time their dirty colors as a group of traitors who should receive the stern judgment of the entire nation.

It is precisely the United States that manipulates behind the scenes the treacherous and treasonous criminal act of the South Korean rulers against dialogue and reunification. It was the United States that manipulated the South Korean rulers to use delay tactics at the site of talks. It was also the United States that encouraged the South Korean rulers to kick off the anticommunist confrontation and war commotions outside the site of talks.

It is clear that as long as the South Korean authorities inspired by the United States, continuously embark upon a road toward confrontation and division, while asserting reunification under a free democratic system and an anticommunist state policy, dialogue between the North and the South cannot be provided. Clearly knowing that if they continuously run counter to the aspirations of our nation and the world's peace-loving peoples, a good result will not be brought about for them, the United States and the South Korean authorities must act with discretion. Recognizing their responsibility for having suspended multifaceted dialogue by positively following the U.S. imperialists' policy of division and war, the South Korean ruling clique must apologize to the entire nation and must immediately withdraw the government's official view which negates dialogue and reunification. In particular, the persons in authority in South Korea must, without delay, give a clear-cut answer to the open questionnaire adopted at the CPRF emergency expanded meeting. We will continuously urge the South Korean authorities to answer it until they do so. The United States must no longer engage in the act of inspiring the South Korean ruling clique; must stop its war maneuvers, a basic obstacle that blocks dialogue in our country and her reunification; and must immediately withdraw along with its forces of aggression and nuclear weapons.

The delegations of the North side to North-South dialogue express the confidence that the South Korean people, compatriots overseas, all the progressive peoples of the world will also in the future sternly denounce the criminal maneuvers of the South Korean ruling clique to pursue confrontation, war, and division, and will extend positive support and encouragement to our sincere efforts for dialogue, peace, and reunification. Instead of tolerating the antinational crimes of negating dialogue and reunification, the delegations of the South Korean side to North-South dialogue must listen to the voices of the entire nation which cries for dialogue and peaceful reunification and must fulfill their due responsibility.

[Dated] 23 May 1987, Pyongyang

OFFICIAL SAYS DPRK SEEKING BETTER TIES WITH U.S.

OW251235 Tokyo KYODO in English 1225 GMT 25 May 87

[Text] Seoul, May 25 KYODO -- South Korean officials said Monday that North Korea is trying to improve ties with the United States through China. A South Korean delegation led by Pak Su-kil, a deputy foreign minister, explained this view in a high-level consultation with Japanese diplomats in Seoul, Japanese officials said. Ryohei Murata, deputy foreign minister, represented Japan at the meeting, the fourth in a series.

South Korea told the Japanese that North Korean President Kim Il-sung's just-ended official visit to China showed the Pyongyang had tried to reshape its relations with Beijing.

The South Korean officials said they supported an international proposal to open a new air route between Japan and China flying over the Korean peninsula, the Japanese officials said. The International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), a United Nations specialised agency, has proposed the airway to Japan, China, and North and South Korea.

HIGHER OFFICE TO INVESTIGATE TORTURE CASE

SK272357 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 28 May 87 p 1

[Text] The Prosecutor General's Office has taken over the investigation into the police cover-up of the torture death of Pak Chong-chol from the Seoul District Prosecution to thoroughly overhaul the case again from the start.

Prosecutor General Yi Chong-nam said yesterday that the higher authority launched an overall scrutiny from the starting point to diffuse people's evergrowing suspicion over the fabrication.

Revealing that everyone who were suspected to have been involved in the cover-up would be summoned for questioning, the new chief prosecutor said that Kang Min-chang, former director general of the National Police Headquarters, will also be called in for reference in connection with the case.

The change of hand in the investigation was ordered by Yi who was dissatisfied with the failure to obtain "clear-cut" results needd to criminally charge those suspected of having been involved in the cover-up.

Following Yi's order, the Prosecutor General's Office began to reinvestigate the cover-up scheme after taking over investigation documents from the Seoul District Prosecution at 5 p.m. yesterday.

The decision to summon former national police chief Kang is based on the possibility that he might have had knowledge of the scheme before or after it was concocted.

He will be questioned over the possibility that he connived the fabrication or instructed some measures to keep it secret.

The Prosecutor General's Office is expected to make known full details of the cover-up shortly possibly tomorrow.

During overnight questioning, from Tuesday night till yesterday morning, the investigating prosecutors reportedly attained from senior police Supt. Gen. Pak Cho-won a statement that he had made a promise of "comfort" to police Lt. Cho Han-kyong when they met at the prison in the middle of April.

Four senior police officers of the National Police Headquarters including Pak and police Supt. Yu Chong-pang, will be placed in custody by the prosecution for their suspected involvement in the cover-up until the end of the investigation:

The prosecution will focus its investigation on the bank book showing balance of 100 million won which Cho's family alleged would have been handed over to them by senior police officers under the condition that Cho remains silent.

In the meantime, Cho, who is believed to hold the key to the settlement of the controversial case, continued to remain silent, refusing to make any comments on the suspected involvement of his senior officers in the fabrication.

Cho had admitted to the cover-up to the extent of police involvement in the torture death of Pak Chong-chol in January, leading to the arrest of three other policemen last Thursday for their role in the torture.

RDP Demands Reinvestigation

BK280003 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 28 May 87 p 2

[Text] The opposition Reunification Democratic Party (RDP) yesterday demanded a reinvestigation into the torture-death of Pak Chong-chol by a new prosecution probe team.

Party spokesman Kim Tae-yong said in a statement, "Prosecutors Sin Chang-on and An Sang-su are suspected of involvement in the cover-up of the torture-killers."

He went on, "In view of the seriousness and gravity of Pak case, it should be investigated again in a fair and thorough manner by a new prosecutor's team."

He asserted that originally, the prosecution was to probe the Pak case but it was referred to the police after a joint meeting of the home minister, justice minister and chiefs of intelligence agencies on Jan. 17.

Kim called on the government to investigate those who took part in the Jan. 17 meeting and take stern punitive action against all responsible people in accordance with the results of the probe.

He also demanded the convocation of a special National Assembly session and the invocation of the parliamentary investigation right.

Meanwhile, a fact-finding committee led by Rep. Mok Yo-sang yesterday visited new Justice Minister Chong Nae-chang and Prosecutor General Yi Chong-nam to demand the out-and-out reinvestigation of Pak's case by a new group of prosecutors.

DJP ACCUSES RDP OF EXPLOITING TORTURE INCIDENT

SK270039 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 27 May 87 p 2

[Text] The ruling Democratic Justice Party said yesterday that the opposition Reunification Democratic Party (RDP) stop exploiting Pak Chong-chol's death politically. [sentence as published]

"We (the DJP) deplore that the RDP incite the sad feelings of the people, rather than try to reveal the truth of the torture death incident," party spokesman Kim Chong-nam said.

Kim accused the main opposition party of conducting "irresponsible and reckless political agitation, employing whatever violent rhetorics."

ORGANIZATION FORMED TO ACHIEVE AMENDMENT

SK272353 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 28 May 87 p 1

[Text] The opposition Reunification Democratic Party and dissident forces yesterday inaugurated a nationwide organization to jointly fight to achieve a "democratic revision" of the Constitution.

They held a "blitz" inaugural meeting at the Hyangnin Church in Myong-dong with about 200 promoters attending.

They declared that the government's April 13 decision to shelve constitutional amendment until after the 1988 Seoul Olympics is invalid "morally and legally" and vowed to launch nationwide movement to impose pressure on the ruling camp to withdraw its decision.

The anti-government body, named the "Headquarters of the National Movement to Fight for a Democratic Constitution," was inaugurated with a total 2,191 promoters from what they said was "all walks of life."

The promoters included 253 Catholics, 270 Protestants, 160 Buddhist monks, 162 representatives of women's circles, 213 politicians, 308 family members of political prisoners, 171 farmers, 39 workers, 35 members of the Mintongnyon, 66 cultural and artistic persons, 43 former journalists and publishers, 34 writers and 18 "representatives of poor citizens."

Among them were Revs. Kim Song-hun, Yun Pan-ung, An Pyong-mu, and Mun Tong-hwan, Buddhist monks Chonghwa and Chison, politicians Yang Sun-chik, Choe Hyong-u and Pak Yong-nok, former journalist Song Kon-ho, poet Ko Un, writer Yi Ho-chol, and women's representatives Yi Tae-yong and Yi U-chong.

During the inaugural gathering, Pak Hyong-kyu, Kim Song-hun, Chison, Kye Mun-che, Song Kon-ho, Pak Yong-kil, Ko Un, Yang Sun-chik, and Kim Myong-yun were appointed as permanent co-representatives of the body.

The selection of permanent advisor was left to the co-representatives. It was learned that opposition leaders Kim Yong-sam, Kim Tae-chung, Stephen Cardinal Kim Su-hwan, dissident leaders Nam Sok-hon and Mun Ik-hwan had already been chosen as the permanent advisors.

In the inaugural manifesto, the organization said, "After the April 13 step, almost all people have demanded the withdrawal of the government decision and clamor for a true democracy in this soil."

It went on, "We found the movement headquarters to sacrifice ourselves for the realization of democracy by uniting isolated and sporadic movements for democracy into one and expanding it to the heart of the people." [sentence as received]

They also vowed to kick off "national and systematic action" to realize the people's opposition to the holding on to the current Constitution and their demand for constitutional revision.

They also noted that they will fight for the removal of the "poisonous clauses" in the Basic Press Law, Laws on Assembly and Demonstration and the National Security Law as well as for the amendment of "evil laws," including the labor laws.

In the resolution, they went on to pledge that they will launch a nationwide campaign to demand the government to reveal the true and full details of the 1980 Kwangju uprising, the financial scandal of the Pan Ocean Shipping Co. and the cover-up of the torture-death of Pak Chong-chob.

DJP To Take 'Firm Stand'

SK280047 Seoul YONHAP in English 0032 GMT 28 May 87

[Text] Seoul, May 28 (YONHAP) -- The ruling Democratic Justice Party (DJP) plans to take a firm stand against a dissident organization inaugurated Wednesday. A senior DJP official said Thursday the DJP cannot help determining that the "Headquarters of the National Movement to Fight for a Democratic Constitutional Amendment" is an illegal organization, designed to create social disorder. The opposition Reunification Democratic Party and dissident forces formed the anti-government organization to "jointly fight to achieve a democratic revision of the Constitution." President Chon Tu-hwan on April 13 postponed debate on the Constitution's revision until after the Seoul Olympics next year.

In particular, the ruling party will not tolerate the participation by the opposition party in the anti-government organization, the DJP official said. He added the government party is also greatly concerned that the dissident headquarters is plotting to hold a massive rally on June 10, the very day when the ruling party's national convention is scheduled to be held to nominate the party's presidential candidate.

If the opposition party and dissident forces aid and abet social disorder, it is feared the political situation will head in an undesirable direction, he said. In order to prevent such an incident, the government and the ruling party will have to take a resolute stance, he said. The official said both political and judicial countermeasures can be worked out by the government party.

The dissident headquarters was inaugurated with a total of 2,191 promoters from what the organization promoters said was "all walks of life."

The promoters included 253 Catholics, 270 Protestants, 160 Buddhist monks, 162 representatives of women's circles, 213 politicians, 308 family members of political prisoners, 43 former journalists, 171 farmers and 39 workers.

Among them were Catholic Father Kim Song-hun, Rev. Pak Hyong-kyu, the Buddhist monk Chison, and dissident figures Song Kon-ho and Kye Hun-che.

A ruling party source said the possibility cannot be ruled out for the ruling camp to urge the headquarters to voluntarily disband or to disband it by force. If the headquarters' members attempt to hold outdoor anti-government rallies, the attempts will be blocked by law-enforcement authorities.

The ruling party will first ask the Reunification Democratic Party to cut its ties with dissident forces and settle problems in the National Assembly through dialogue. If the opposition party refuses the request, proper countermeasures will be worked out, a DJP source said.

Meanwhile, the ruling camp is studying ways to improve its relationship with the opposition camp following the sweeping reshuffle of the cabinet on Tuesday. "We hope that the replacement of the prime minister and other key officials will contribute to improving inter-party relations, as it was meant as a moral and political reprimand," a DJP official said. The official said the DJP's efforts will focus on persuading the opposition camp to participate in the scheduled political events, including the presidential election slated for December. The opposition Reunification Democratic Party (RDP) said they would not participate in the presidential election under the current constitution.

Dialogue with the RDP may resume after the DJP's June 10 national convention, sources said. The ruling party is also considering a meeting between its Chairman No Tae-u and RDP President Kim Yong-sam after the June 10 convention. Political sources said, however, that the prospects for an early resumption of dialogue between the rival parties are not optimistic because of the tense confrontation between the two sides over various political issues: such as the revision of the constitution, the RDP's party platform and the June 10 rally projected to be held jointly by the RDP and the newly formed dissident organization.

The convocation of a special National Assembly session is regarded as uncertain because the RDP is adamant in its insistence on invoking the National Assembly's right to investigate into state affairs as a prerequisite for the holding of the special session.

FLOOR LEADERS AGREE TO CONVENE SPECIAL SESSION

SK270035 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 27 May 87 p 2

[Text] Floor leaders of the rival political parties yesterday agreed to convene the National Assembly, but failed to narrow their differences on the invocation of the Assembly power to probe state affairs in connection with the cover-up of the torture death of a college student.

Rep. Kim Hyon-kyu of the major opposition Reunification Democratic Party did not attend the floor leaders' meeting at the Assembly, calling for a prior guarantee that the Assembly would invoke its power to probe state affairs.

Political sources yesterday said the floor leaders will meet again shortly after the prosecution announces the results of its reinvestigation of the incident.

The ruling Democratic Justice Party is considering convening a special Assembly session of short duration at an early date, DJP sources said.

The sources said the session is most likely to be held before the DJP's national convention to select a presidential candidate slated for June 10.

The ruling party, however, opposes the demand by opposition parties for the convocation of parliamentary power to investigate the incident.

The main opposition Reunification Democracy Party demands that parliamentary power to look into state affairs be invoked when a special session convenes.

CABINET RESHUFFLE STRENGTHENS NO TAE-U'S POSITION

SK270005 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 27 May 87 p 2

[By Pak Chang-sok]

[Text] By all indications, yesterday's Cabinet shakeup is said to have firmed up the position of the Democratic Justice Party Chairman No Tae-u, who has been groomed to be the ruling party's presidential candidate.

The resignation of Premier No Sin-yong and Chang Se-tong, director of the Agency for National Security Planning (NSP), along with a few other key officials was surprising in light of the weight of their political roles.

Both No and Chang have been the closest aids of President Chon Tu-hwan in the government since the birth of the current "Fifth Republic" in 1981.

With the inauguration of the present administration in March 1981, No was named foreign minister and then served successively as the director of the NSP and premier.

Chang, who was even called an "alter ego" of President Chon, long served as the chief of the Presidential Security Force before he was transferred to the most powerful post in the administration.

For their political importance, both No and Chang have been frequently rumored as possible successors to Chon along with No Tae-u, chairman of the Democratic Justice Party (DJP).

In this respect, the retreat of No and Chang indicated a major change in the ruling camp's hierarchy and gave No a 100 percent certainty of winning the presidential nomination in a national convention scheduled for June 10.

The May 26 Cabinet shuffle, supposed to be the last one under President Chon, came as an action of "reprisand," calling it to account for the recent controversies focused on the torture-death of a university student.

It was a quick answer to the growing demands from both the ruling DJP and opposition parties that the Cabinet shoulder the "political, legal, and moral" responsibilities for the cover-up of the torturers of Pak Chong-chol.

Observers view the shakeup as a resolute action by President Chon to assuage public grievances at the outbreak of a series of scandalous revelations.

The newly-formed Cabinet, led by Yi Han-ki, 69, is charged with unprecedented grave mission to carry out political schedules leading to the change of government in February, 1988.

But the personalities in the new lineup could be generally described as "moderates," to which even opposition parties reserved strong opinions.

For this, some political observers view that the ruling camp may show a considerable flexibility in tackling the opposition camp.

The tapping of Yi Han-ki as premier and An Mu-hyok as the director of the NSP is believed to be designed for smooth coordination between the administration and the government party.

Yi, who served as chairman of the Board of Audit and Inspection (BAI) upon the inauguration of the current government, has been associated with the DJP as president of the "DJP Supporters' Association."

New NSP chief An is a close friend of Rep. Yi Chun-ku, secretary general of the DJP who is now playing an important political role within the government party.

An and Yi were in the same 14th class of the Korea Military Academy (KMA) and played key roles at the birth of the current Fifth Republic Government.

The replacement of the new justice minister and the prosecutor general was a disciplinary measure taken in connection with faulty investigation into the police torture of Pak.

The sacking of Kim Man-che as the top economic policy planner obviously stemmed from his responsibility for the financial mishaps involving big businesses, especially the Pan Ocean Shipping Co. scandal.

Opposition Dissatisfied

SK262351 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 27 May 87 p 1

[Text] Opposition parties have aired dissatisfaction with the Cabinet reshuffle announced yesterday.

Rep. Kim Tae-yong, spokesman for the major opposition Reunification Democratic Party, said in a statement that the whole Cabinet should have been replaced to alleviate popular discontent caused by the torture-death of Pak Chong-chol.

"Nonetheless, the incumbent regime tries to restore its popularity by conducting a partial Cabinet reshuffle and we cannot accept it."

He went on, "If the government really wants to restore the people's support, it should thoroughly investigate the case to the extent of winning the people's understanding, and take a stern punitive measure against those involved in the incident."

Rep. Chong Chae-won of the opposition New Korea Democratic Party, commented that the new Cabinet is a body of "royal guards" which was formed for the maintenance of power, ignoring the people's growing distrust and their pressure to expel the current government.

Rep. Choe Yong-an, spokesman for the minor opposition Korea National Party, said that the shake-up of some Cabinet members was regrettable.

He noted that a major Cabinet reshuffle is necessary for the restoration of the people's confidence.

Parties Review Strategies

SK280022 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 28 May 87 p 2

[By staff reporter Yi Song-yol]

[Text] Rival political parties are examining all over again their strategies for the forthcoming political landscape in the wake of Tuesday's cabinet reshuffle.

They expect the cabinet shakeup to bring on changes to some extent in the interparty relations and the political atmosphere, as it affected the cabinet's core posts, which have directly or indirectly made considerable influence on politics.

On the part of the ruling Democratic Justice Party, the shakeup provided a momentum to escape from the embarrassing situation caused by the cover-up of a college student's torture death and the foreign exchange flight scandal of the Pan Ocean Shipping Co.

The reshuffle also provided an atmosphere that DJP chairman No Tae-u could expand his role after the June 10 national convention, in which he is expected to be nominated as the ruling party's presidential candidate.

Thus the DJP could down its political timetable toward a power transition slated for next February in a more favorable condition.

With the cabinet reshuffle, the DJP can, from now on exercise greater influence over the cabinet, an important change pending the nomination of President Chon Tu-hwan's successor.

In this connection, a ranking DJP official said yesterday. "From now on, the DJP-Cabinet cooperative relations will be further consolidated. Especially after the national convention, the party's role will be expanded."

After the national convention, the DJP plans to actively persuade the opposition Reunification Democratic Party to join the ruling party's political timetable.

But the RDP, led by Kim Yong-sam, plans to outrightly challenge the government and its party, calling for the withdrawal of the April 13 presidential decision to postpone constitutional revision debate till after the Seoul Olympiad.

The RDP, protesting that the cabinet shakeup fell short of a political settlement of the torture death scandal, plans to launch political attacks in and out of the National Assembly against the government.

In a preparation of extra-Assembly struggles, the RDP, along with various dissident groups, formed a body designed to achieve constitutional reform.

As the opposition camp plans to hold a mass rally condemning the torture death scandal on June 10, the very day of the DJP's national convention, a round of interparty clash seems inevitable.

Interparty relations after that day is also expected to be more strained, with the DJP pushing for its own political timetable and the opposition waging fierce struggles against the April 13 decision and calling for constitutional change.

The RDP is expected to use the torture death of Pak Chong-chol, a Seoul National University junior, for a considerable time for its attack against the government's decision to stop debates on constitutional change.

If the government and its party push for power transition under the current Constitution, the RDP will not participate in the elections, in a bid to weaken the legitimacy of [the] next government, RDP sources have said.

Before, that, the RDP calls for the Assembly power to probe state affair in connection with Pak's torture death.

If the DJP rejects the demands, the RDP is ready to launch out-of-the-Assembly struggles.

The cover-up of the torture death incident has, in a sense, saved the opposition twice and the RDP can have favorite position, reversing the political situation;

Thus the RDP is determined to make the best of the opportunity and connect it with its call for constitutional revision featuring direct presidential elections.

Therefore, unless an occasion for interparty negotiation on constitutional revision is provided, political landscape is likely to remain frozen for a long time.

DJP SEEKS TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH OPPOSITION

SK272347 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 28 May 87 p 1

[Text] The ruling camp is studying ways to improve the relationship with the opposition camp in the belief that Tuesday's sweeping reshuffle in the Cabinet has provided a chance to take the heat out of the situation.

A party official said yesterday that "we are racking our brains over how to change the political climate."

"We hope that the replacement of the prime minister and other key officials will contribute to improving inter-party relations, as it was meant as a moral and political reprimand," he said.

He said the DJP's efforts will focus on persuading the opposition camp to participate in the scheduled political events, including the presidential election slated for December.

Dialogue with the Reunification Democratic Party, which has rejected the DJP's political timetable, may resume after the party's June 10 national convention to pick its presidential candidate, party sources said.

The DJP will have to sound out the RDP on whether there is a possibility of a change in the RDP's current tough stance first through contacts between floor leaders for the opening of a special National Assembly session, to tackle the cover-up of torturers of Pak Chong-chol, the sources said.

A senior official, however, warned that "if the RDP, sticking to its uncompromising attitude to the last, attempts to touch off social unrest and political tension through out-of-parliament structures, we will counter resolutely."

Party Secretary-General Yi Chun-ku made it clear that the controversy aroused by the RDP's platform on national reunification "has yet to be settled."

"The Pak case has nothing to do with the controversy over the platform," he said.

Meanwhile, party sources said that the party is also considering a meeting of its chairman No Tae-u and RDP President Kim Yong-sam after the June 10 national convention.

But, they expressed worry over the opposition forces' plan to hold a mass rally to denounce the ruling camp in connection with the Pak case on the very day of the DJP's national convention.

They said that the rally promoted jointly by the dissident organizations and the RDP may stimulate hardliners in the ruling camp, eliminating chances for the normalization of the bipartisan relationship.

"If the RDP continue to make use of the torture incident for the purposes of agitating the people and stirring up political chaos, discrediting the government's efforts to settle it, a difficult situation will follow," a senior official warned.

COLLEGE STUDENTS FIREBOMB PUSAN DJP OFFICE

SK280023 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 28 May 87 p 3

[Text] Pusan (YONHAP) -- A group of college students attacked a district chapter office of the ruling Democratic Justice Party here with firebombs Tuesday evening, police said yesterday.

Police arrested two of the attackers on the scene, but the others had fled, witnesses said.

They said a band of nearly 20 youths darted from a back street in the busy Suan intersection in Tongnaegu, around 8 p.m. and hurled about 10 firebombs at a four-story building housing the DJP office.

Police, quoting the witnesses, said the firebombs failed to reach Rep. Kang's fourth-floor office.

Two large windowpanes on the first floor were shattered, according to police.

The students reportedly including those from Pusan National University also scattered scores of antigovernment leaflets in the streets as they fled, police said.

CUBAN, CAMBODIAN MINISTERS HOLD DISCUSSIONS

FL261549 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1409 GMT 26 May 87

[Text] Cuban Vice Foreign Trade Minister Jose de la Fuente has concluded a 4-day visit to Cambodia during which he and his counterpart, Phang Saret, analysed the possibilities of establishing trade relations. The negotiations between the two deputy trade ministers led to an agreement concerning the issues that will be included in the Cuban-Cambodian commercial exchange, particularly rubber and sugar.

SPK CITES GORBACHEV REMARKS ON CAMBODIAN ISSUE

BK211306 Phnom Penh SPK in English 1114 GMT 21 May 87

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK May 21 -- The Kampuchean problem can only be solved proceeding from the highest interests of the Kampuchean people and their legitimate right to shape their destiny themselves, on the basis of unification of all their national patriotic forces.

This was stated by Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, at a recent Kremlin dinner in honour of Nguyen Van Linh, General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, now on an official friendship visit to the Soviet Union.

He was quoted by VNA as saying: "The Kampuchean people have over recent years, with the internationalist assistance of Vietnam, the Soviet Union and other socialist countries, literally restored their homeland from ashes. The ancient land of Angkor, which was swept by a devastating tornado, is slowly but steadily recovering from the horrors of Pol Pot's genocide. But the normal development of that country is still being hindered by continued military activities and interference by outside forces.

"Both our Vietnamese comrades and we share in full the opinion of the leadership of the People's Republic of Kampuchea that the Kampuchean problem calls for a political solution."

On the friendship and militant solidarity between the three Indochinese countries, the Soviet leaders said:

"We hail the increasingly strong fraternal alliance of Vietnam, Laos and Kampuchea and think highly of their efforts to improve the political climate in the region and turn it into a zone of peace, stability and good neighbourly cooperation."

MEDIA DISCUSSES SON SANN, SIHANOUK TRAVEL PLANS**Premier Arrives in Paris**

AU221340 Paris AFP in English 1151 GMT 22 May 87

[Excerpt] Paris, May 22 (AFP) -- The prime minister of the UN-recognised Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea (CGDK), Son Sann, is undertaking a private visit here for consultations with its president, Prince Norodom Sihanouk, sources close to the premier said on Friday.

The sources said that the premier had written to Prince Sihanouk asking to meet him for consultations in Paris but he had not yet received a response.

Prince Sihanouk announced last week he was stepping down for one year as president of the CGDK and named Mr Son Sann to stand in for him. He also scrapped plans for foreign visits. [passage omitted]

Sihanouk Denies Travel Plans

HK261432 Hong Kong AFP in English 1424 GMT 26 May 87

[Text] Beijing, May 26 (AFP) -- Prince Norodom Sihanouk, who has stepped down temporarily as leader of the Cambodian resistance, will not be going to Paris to meet Vietnamese figures, a statement released here said Tuesday.

In a signed letter dated May 22 and sent from the North Korean capital Pyongyang, Prince Sihanouk said: "Reports that Norodom Sihanouk will soon go to Paris to meet Vietnamese figures are false."

The prince said he had no plans to go to France or anywhere else in the coming months.

Recent unverified rumours here had said the prince would meet Vietnamese officials on an upcoming trip to Paris.

Prince Sihanouk announced on May 15 his "irrevocable" decision to step down for one year as president of the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea (CGDK), saying that his National Sihanoukist Army (ANS) had been attacked by fellow resistance members the Khmer Rouge.

The Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF) led by Son Sann is the third partner in the UN-recognized CGDK which fields about 50,000 guerrillas against an estimated 140,000 Vietnamese troops in Cambodia supporting the Phnom Penh government.

In the letter, Prince Sihanouk also said it was not correct to say he had rejected Indonesian Foreign Minister Mokhtar Kusumaatmaja's proposal for an informal "cocktail party" bringing together representatives of the CGDK, the Phnom Penh regime and Vietnam as a step towards a Cambodian settlement.

In emphasizing that he was not rejecting the "cocktail party" proposal which would include all the concerned parties, observers said the prince was effectively giving himself the freedom for future considerations which would not engage the CGDK.

VOK Reports Son Sann Trip

BK230754 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0500 GMT 23 May 87

[Text] His Excellency Son Sann, CGDK prime minister and KPNLF president, is currently visiting Paris, France. A report from France says that His Excellency Son Sann will be visiting Belgium, Britain, and West Germany next week. He will also visit Romania before returning to Paris at the end of June. France does not recognise the Heng Samrin regime and the CGDK but has good relations with the non-communist groups of the CGDK, namely the KPNLF led by his Excellency Son Sann and the FUNCINPEC led by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk.

RADIO COMMENTS ON SRV-USSR 'SCHEMES,' RELATIONSSchemes To Undermine CGDK

BK210519 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2330 GMT 20 May 87

[Station commentary: "Why Have Vietnam and the Soviet Union Vigorously Schemed To Undermine the Great National Union of the Cambodian People?"]

[Text] Both the Hanoi Vietnamese aggressors and their Soviet boss have been launching more vigorous activities to undermine the CGDK and the Cambodian resistance forces by persuading some parties of the CGDK to hold talks with their lackeys in Phnom Penh and vigorously propagating the deceitful national reconciliation mapped out by Vietnam. Why have Vietnam and the Soviet Union vigorously launched these schemes?

The Vietnamese-Soviet war of aggression in Cambodia has proceeded for more than 8 years now. Over the years, Vietnam and the Soviet Union have made every effort, particularly through military means, to smash the Cambodian patriotic resistance forces, thus enabling them to swallow up Cambodia for forming an Indochinese Federation in accordance with their aggressive and expansionist strategies. But they have failed, because the Cambodian patriotic resistance forces and the Cambodian nation and people have united and counter-attacked the Vietnamese aggressors valiantly and arduously. The great national union of the Cambodian people has grown gradually and enjoyed more vigorous and enthusiastic support of the world community, thus making the Cambodian people's struggle against the Vietnamese-Soviet aggression develop more favorably in the military, political, diplomatic, and other fields.

As for the Vietnamese enemy, it has faced more serious difficulties on the Cambodian battlefield, the situation in the ninth dry season clearly showed that the Vietnamese enemy has not been able to extricate itself from the total and complete impasse on the Cambodian battlefield. On the contrary, it has sunk even more deeply.

For this reason, Vietnam and the Soviet Union have realized that it is impossible for them to smash the Cambodian patriotic resistance forces through military means. Therefore, they have intensified their propaganda activities and launched maneuvers to undermine our Cambodian people's great national union in an attempt to weaken these forces both on the battlefield and in the international arena, thus enabling Vietnam to have time to extricate itself from this sinking position, launch an offensive to eliminate the Cambodian patriotic resistance forces and the CGDK, exterminate the entire Cambodian nation and race, and realize its perfidious scheme to form an Indochinese Federation for use as a springboard to carry on its aggression and expansion against other countries in this region.

However, the Vietnamese schemes can fool no one, not the Cambodian nation and people nor the world community because they know very well that Vietnam and the Soviet Union are not willing to solve the Cambodian problem through the total withdrawal of Vietnamese aggressor troops from Cambodia to let the Cambodian people decide their own destiny. This is seen through the fact that Vietnam and the Soviet Union have rejected the eight resolutions of the United Nations and the flexible eight-point peace proposal of the CGDK. Moreover, the Soviet Union, which has provided financial aid and arms for Vietnam to commit aggression against Cambodia, has once again vehemently rejected the appeal by the ASEAN and other countries in the region calling on it to stop aiding the Vietnamese aggression in Cambodia.

On the Cambodian battlefield, the Vietnamese enemy has intensified massacre against the Cambodian people in a more cruel and fascist manner through the use of all kinds of methods, particularly the use of toxic chemicals.

All of these clearly prove that Vietnam and the Soviet Union have not abandoned their aggressive and expansionist design in Cambodia and in this region. Therefore, their aforesaid attempt to persuade any party of the CGDK to hold talks with their lackeys in Phnom Penh is just a scheme to realize their aggressive design in Cambodia.

The Cambodian people and the tripartite CGDK are well aware of the perfidious scheme of the Vietnamese enemy aggressors. All of us will not do anything that benefits the Vietnamese enemy. While the Vietnamese are facing all kinds of difficulties both on the Cambodian battlefield and in Vietnam, all of us will continue to unite, hold aloft our combat banner, and fight more vigorously against the Vietnamese enemy aggressors in the military, political, diplomatic, and other fields in order to force Vietnam to quickly accept the CGDK's eight-point peace proposal. This is because the only possible way to solve the Cambodian problem is through the CGDK peace proposal which will ensure the restoration of Cambodia's genuine independence, unity, peace, neutrality, and nonaligned status.

Regional Expansionist Strategy

BK260341 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2330 GMT 25 May 87

[Station commentary: "Vietnam and the Soviet Union Continue To Support Each Other in Implementing Their Strategy of Expansion and Aggression in the Region"]

[Text] When new Vietnamese leader Nguyen Van Linh visited Moscow, he emphatically informed Gorbachev that all-round cooperation with the Soviet Union remained a major foundation of Vietnam's foreign policy. In the Vietnamese-Soviet joint communique, the Soviet side stressed that it would continue supporting Vietnam's policy in Cambodia, meaning that the Soviet Union stubbornly continues to support Vietnam's aggression against Cambodia. This shows that both Vietnam and the Soviet Union continue stubbornly to implement their strategy of aggression and expansion in the region, that they have not given up their expansionist ambition. Vietnam's ambition is to swallow Cambodia and incorporate it into an Indochinese Federation to be made up of Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia, and then use this Indochinese Federation as a springboard for expansion and aggression against other countries in order to become the overlord of all of Southeast Asia. As for the Soviet Union, its ambition is to control and rule over Southeast Asia and the Asia-Pacific region, in particular to control major transportation routes, such as the Strait of Malacca. This is why the Soviet Union has agreed to spend so much money and huge amounts of arms and ammunition to sponsor Vietnam in its war of aggression against Cambodia. On the one hand, this will allow Vietnam to set up an Indochinese Federation, which the Soviet Union would use as a stepping stone for implementing its aggressive and expansionist strategy in the region, while, on the other hand, this will give the Soviet Union access to military bases in Vietnam, especially the Cam Ranh and Da Nang bases, for activities to expand its influence in the region.

It is because they share the same ambitions, interests, and strategies that Vietnam and the Soviet Union are so close and lend each other firm support in implementing their strategy of aggression and expansion. For more than 8 years, although the Soviet Union has experienced dire difficulties in its involvement in Afghanistan, in the economic sector at home, and in all other areas and despite the fact that other countries in the region have resolutely opposed it and demanded that it stop supporting Vietnam's aggression against Cambodia, the Soviet Union has refused to let Vietnam down.

It continues stubbornly to help Vietnam. As for Vietnam, because it received aid and support from the Soviet Union, it has also stubbornly refused to let go of Cambodia. It continues to commit aggression against and to occupy Cambodia, massacring the Cambodian people and sabotaging peace and stability in this region.

Faced with this stubbornness and doggedness of Vietnam and the Soviet Union in carrying out their strategy of aggression and expansion in the region, the international community feels it cannot give them any more leeway. To give latitude to Vietnam and the Soviet Union is tantamount to encouraging them in their stubbornness, which may protract the war in Cambodia. Therefore, at this time when the Hanoi authorities are experiencing hardships in all fields, both on the Cambodian front and at home as well as in the international arena, it is imperative for the international community to continue joining hands in creating a more powerful all-round pressure on Vietnam so as to inflict greater hardships on it until it is forced to sit down at the negotiating table to settle the Cambodian conflict politically by withdrawing all its aggressive troops from Cambodia in accordance with the eight relevant UN resolutions. Only in this way can the Cambodian problem be solved and can the danger stemming from the Vietnamese-Soviet strategy of aggression and expansion in the region be eliminated.

BRIEFS

DELEGATION RETURNS FROM GREECE -- Phnom Penh SPK May 23 -- A delegation of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea led by Say Siphon, candidate member of the party Central Committee, returned home Wednesday after attending the 12th Congress of the Communist Party of Greece (CPG), held from May 12-16. While there, the head of the Kampuchean Delegation was received by Harilaos Florakis, reelected general secretary of the Communist Party of Greece Central Committee. On May 13, Say Siphon and his party attended a meeting in Nafis. At the meeting he hailed the efforts made by the CPG for national independence, freedom and well-being of the Greek people and the removing of the U.S. military presence from Greece. He also spoke of the crimes committed by the genocidal Pol Pot clique against the Kampuchean people and the wonderful rebirth of the Kampuchean people who are now in national defence and construction despite all the enemy's attempts to disturb their peaceful life. He also expressed the Kampuchean people's wishes for the promotion of fraternal friendship with Greek people. Before leaving Greece, the Kampuchea delegation met with various foreign delegations to the CPG's congress. [Text] [Phnom Penh SPK in English 1108 GNT 23 May 87 BK]

KAMPUCHEAN OFFICIALS VISIT VIETNAM -- [no date line -- as received] A group of Kampuchean officials led by Abdul Koyom, vice chairman of the Committee for Nationalities of the Kampuchean National Assembly, has paid a two-week visit to Vietnam. While there, it had working sessions with the Commission for Information and Training of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee and made a study tour of Hanoi and the Provinces of Ha Tuyen, Thanh Hoa and Vinh Phu. The Kampuchean guests were received by Dao Duy Tung, alternate Politburo member and secretary of the CPV Central Committee. [Text] [Phnom Penh SPK in English 0516 GNT 20 May 87 BK]

COOPERATION WITH LAO WOMEN -- Phnom Penh, 26 May (SPK) -- A protocol of cooperation for the 1987-88 and 1988-90 periods between the Kampuchean Revolutionary Women's Association (KRWA) and the Lao Patriotic Women's Union (LPWU) was signed in Phnom Penh on Sunday 24 May by Mean Sam-an, member of the KPRP Central Committee and chairman of the KRWA, and Phetsamon Lasasamma, member of the LPRP Central Committee and vice chairman of the LPWU, currently visiting Cambodia. [Text] [Phnom Penh SPK in French 0408 GNT 26 May 87 BK]

ARMY TO PURCHASE 150 U.S. STINGRAY TANKS

BK280017 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 28 May 87 p 1

[Text] The Army has decided to allow the Commercial Associate Company to procure 150 new light Stingray tanks from the Cadillac Gage of the United States.

Army sources said Commander-in-Chief Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut has given his approval for the purchase of the tanks only recently. The deal, which is yet to be approved by the Cabinet, is expected to cost the Army about 5,000 million baht.

A proposal of the Commercial Associate Company's main rival, Loxley, was turned down because of its higher price. Loxley had offered to procure for the Army West German-made Leopard tanks at a cost of about 60 million baht each as against about 26 million baht for a Stingray tank.

Loxley, though charging more for the tanks, proposed that Thailand pay half of the price in cash and the rest in agricultural products through barter arrangements.

The sources said part of the funding for the purchase of the Stingray tanks would come from a 2,000-million-baht fund the Army has allocated for the renovation of 200 obsolete M-41 tanks bought as scrap from Taiwan.

The rest of the money is expected to be obtained from allocations for the Army in subsequent years.

The sources said that the new Stingray tanks will be commissioned in the Army's main armoured unit, unlike the 30 T-69 tanks bought from China recently which was considered more of a diplomatic deal.

Although the Stingrays are light tanks, the 105mm guns to be installed on them will make the vehicle's combat efficiency comparable to that of M-41 tanks currently in use in the Thai Army.

Although Stingrays, the collaborative-venture of Cadillac Gage and the United Kingdom's Royal Ordnance, are considered a new product in the international armoured vehicle industry, the sources said the military was satisfied with its performance.

Its development began in 1983 when many countries began turning to light tanks.

AGREEMENT SIGNED TO BUY PRC-MADE APC'S

BK270534 Bangkok THE NATION in English 27 May 87 p 1

[Text] Thailand has signed an agreement to buy armoured personnel carriers (APC) from China, Deputy Army Chief-of-Staff Lt Gen Suchinda Khraprayun said yesterday.

He told THE NATION the deal was signed "very recently" but gave no details.

The Royal Thai Army (RTA) originally planned to buy 400 APCs from China. Army Commander-in-Chief Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut on May 1 this year signed an agreement in Beijing to buy 30 T-69 tanks, 24 artillery pieces and some ammunition from China as part of the Thai Armed Forces' policy to diversify their sources of weapons.

DEFENSE FORCES CHIEF COMMENTS ON PRK SITUATION

BK270929 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 0530 GMT 26 May 87

[Text] Captain Prathip Ningmuang, deputy chief of staff of the Chanthaburi-Trat border defense force, reviewed the situation inside Cambodia during the past month. He said that since the beginning of the rainy season, the Vietnamese side has had to send more weapons and food supplies to its military units along the Cambodian-Thai border. Many Vietnamese soldiers fell ill which required a rotation of forces to bring in fresh troops. The Vietnamese side thus was unable to effectively launch a suppression drive against the three Khmer patriotic factions. In most cases, the Khmer patriotic forces would initiate the fighting by breaking up into small units to harass and sabotage the Vietnamese military installations and obstructing the logistic routes. The fighting generally took place in central Cambodia.

During the period under review, the situation along the border in Pong Nam Ron District of Chanthaburi Province improved a lot. No Vietnamese shells landed inside Pong Nam Ron District. Five Army deserters from the Heng Samrin regime gave themselves up to the Thai authorities on 28 April and 13 May. They also brought weapons with them.

Regarding the situation along the border in Trat Province, artillery shells landed inside Thai territory on several occasions, causing damage to houses and property of the people in the area. However, the situation was less violent when compared with the previous period.

SRV Troops Claim Territory

BK270532 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 27 May 87 p 1

[Text] Nam Yun -- Vietnamese troops in the hills straddling the Thai-Kampuchean border have been using loudspeakers to tell Thai troops they are on Kampuchean soil.

Speaking in Thai, they have been warning Thai soldiers not to intrude into "Kampuchean soil", and saying they do not want to fight Thai forces but intended to suppress only Khmer resistance.

Thai forces earlier used loudspeakers to tell the Vietnamese in their own language to get out of Thai soil.

Deputy Prime Minister Chatchai Chunchawan will today lead a group of MPs to visit the Second Army forward headquarters in Nam Yun district, where they will be briefed by region commander Lt Gen Itsaraphong Nunphakdi.

Military sources said many other teams will also visit the troops, including those of Foreign Minister ACH [Air Chief Marshal] Sitthi Sawetsila and Nakhon Ratchasima Governor Sombun Thaiwatcharamat.

SITTHI MEETS INDONESIAN FOREIGN MINISTER**BK270907 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in English 1500 GMT 25 May 87**

[Text] Thai Foreign Minister Air Chief Marshal Sitthi Sawetsila yesterday held talks with Indonesian Foreign Minister Mokhtar Kusumaatmaja who arrived in Bangkok on Sunday [24 May] morning. The two ministers agreed that there is an improvement in the atmosphere over the Kampuchean problem, but cautioned that it has yet to lead to any concrete action.

After comparing notes on their assessment of the Soviet Union's policy toward the region, the two ministers concur that Moscow genuinely wanted to improve its relations with ASEAN.

Air Chief Marshal Sitthi said in an interview earlier on the day after his return from a visit to the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe that Moscow had promised it would help settle the Kampuchean problem.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER MEETS PRC DELEGATION**BK270955 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 1300 GMT 25 May 87**

[Text] Vice President of the Association for International Understanding of China Lei Jieqiong and her delegation, at 1600 on 25 May, called on Deputy Prime Minister Phong Sarasin at Government House. The group was accompanied by Deputy Director General of the Protocol Department Prathuang Rotphrom and PRC Ambassador to Thailand Zhang Dewei. The Chinese group is visiting Thailand from 25 to 30 May as guests of the Foreign Ministry.

The deputy prime minister welcomed Mrs Lei Jieqiong, vice president of the Association for International Understanding of China, and her party. Mrs Lei Jieqiong said her current visit to Thailand is for promoting the understanding between Thailand and China. She is accompanied by members of political parties, social groups, and academics. She wants to see greater exchanges and cooperation between Thailand and China in various fields as Thailand and China have long-established brotherly relations. She thanked the Thai Government and people for the warm hospitality. She praised Thailand as a beautiful country suitable as a tourist attraction. She also talked about the government system in China as well as other matters of interest during the meeting with the Thai deputy prime minister.

The deputy prime minister noted to her that China and Thailand are long-time good friends. There is proof of this in history, the smooth relations and cooperation in the past between the two countries. He thanked the Chinese Government for a purchase of 100,000 tons of rice from Thailand during the visit here by Chinese Deputy Prime Minister Tian Jiyun last year. He urged Chinese tourists to visit Thailand during this year's campaign to celebrate the king's 60th birthday. The occasion will be marked by various activities planned by the government and the private sector. The deputy prime minister called for mutual assistance and cooperation in trade between Thailand and China noting that Thailand's major production is farm products as the majority of the Thai people are farmers.

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CHAMALIT COMMENTS ON SOUTHEAST ASIA SECURITY

BK271350 Bangkok First Army Division Radio in Thai 2300 GMT 26 May 87

[Sayamanusati program]

[Text] Dear listeners: We Thai people have been talking about the situation in Cambodia because it impacts not only on Thailand but also on the whole region. Our Sayamanusati program today will present this issue to you once again.

You have probably heard through the mass media that on 20 May Army Commander and Deputy Anticommunist director Chawalit Yongchaiyut presided over the opening of a technical seminar on Thailand's national strategy and Southeast Asian security in the next decade.

Touching on the problems in Indochina, the Army commander said that he himself could not foresee any change in the situation in Cambodia in the next 4 or 5 years or at least to the next decade. The strength of the resistance force is also a major factor determining the situation in that country. However, more important is that Vietnam is encountering economic difficulties. At the same time, the Soviet Union, the major supporter of Vietnam, is also having economic problems. The Soviet Union has to spend a lot to develop and maintain the facilities at Cam Ranh Bay which can allow 40 ships to anchor at the same time. Cam Ranh Bay must have its own aerial defense system. Nobody knows how long the Soviet Union can shoulder this financial burden, as its economy is deteriorating.

The Army commander said that Thailand is now directly facing its enemy, Vietnam. Vietnam is capable of causing any type of change. We have to clarify whether the Vietnamese presence in Cambodia is regarded as tension or not. From the military point of view, we compare our combat capabilities with theirs to judge if we can take any military action to defend our national stability. We will have to study the foundation of this region by comparing military might which Thailand has used to formulate its Army strategy.

Another important thing is that efforts to create understanding among ASEAN member countries at the Army commander level must be intensified and has evidently created close fraternity on the foundation of kinship-like relations which will lead to understanding and eventually to military kinship [khwam pen khrua yat nai dan kamlang] in this region.

What the Army commander said clearly presents many points of views. First, he talked about the situation in Cambodia where he could not foresee any big change in the next 4 or 5 years or next decade. This means that Vietnam will not change its policy. It will not withdraw its troops from Cambodia and will continue its aggression against Thailand. The strength of the anti-Vietnamese factions is another factor that can lead to a new change. However, if Vietnam and its supporters can withstand the economic deterioration, the situation in Cambodia will remain unchanged. The resistance forces can never do anything unless they continue to grow bigger and stronger as they opponents have to carry such heavy burdens for the next 5 or 10 years.

Everyone can recall the U.S. war against the communists in Vietnam. The United States could keep South Vietnam alive for some time. But it could not shoulder the economic and social burdens throughout the protracted war. So, it had to give up and return home in quite bad shape despite the fact the world's economy at that time was not in the critical condition it is in now.

Although the Soviet Union has not sent its troops to fight in Cambodia, it has set up military bases in Danang and Cam Ranh Bay. In so doing, it has to spend a lot of money to maintain those military facilities in addition to its financial support for Vietnam to wage a war in Cambodia. Moreover, the Soviet Union is also financing wars in Afghanistan and many other places. How long the Soviet Union will be able to stand economic crisis remains to be seen. When the time comes, the Soviet Union will not be different from the United States in the past. Without Soviet support, Vietnam will fall apart. This is the only time the situation in this region will change. As the situation remains unchanged, Thailand will continue to feel the impact.

Secondly, the Army commander said that Thailand is now directly confronting its national enemy, Vietnam. Vietnam is capable of causing changes. This is the fact that we should not overlook. From time immemorial to now, Vietnam has never shown a friendly attitude toward Thailand despite the fact that Thailand has always provided safe refuge for its leaders and people. Even Ho Chi Minh himself once took refuge in the northeastern region for a long time.

It was probably the fertility of the northeastern region along the Mekong River that influenced Ho Chi Minh's plan to set up the Indochinese Federation which would annex our 17 northeastern provinces. This plan is also known as Ho Chi Minh's Dream. At present, Vietnam has been explicitly demonstrating its hostile attitude toward Thailand. The aggression against Thailand at Chong Bok border pass in Nam Yun District of Ubon Ratchathani Province clearly indicates Vietnam's desire to set up its strongholds in the area. Our forces faced all kinds of difficulties in their attempt to push the intruders out of our territory because the terrain was very conducive to their advancement. At any event, we can never let any foreign force remain inside our territory. We have to push them out. Thus the subsequent fighting was quite violent. Both sides suffered casualties.

From time immemorial, Vietnam has never shown any sign of its sincerity or amity toward Thailand. It has been very aggressive. Occasionally, it seemed to be flexible and compromising. But that was only a trick to further project its aggression against us. We cannot lower our guards as we face the threat from Vietnam. At the same time, we must carefully lay down our strategy and tactics to prevent the enemy from setting up their strongholds inside our territory.

Third, the Army commander talked about good understanding and relations among the ASEAN member countries, in particular at the Army commander level. This is the most important point of view. Even major powers recognize ASEAN's military kinship which has much worried Vietnam. The Vietnamese prime minister and foreign minister lately made frequent visits to ASEAN members countries in a bid to create misunderstanding and mutual suspicion and eventually disunity within ASEAN. But they failed to make any achievement because we have reached a common conclusion that the aggression against Cambodia is a common major problem in the region, and it has seriously affected peace in the region. For this reason, we have to uphold our fraternity and be closely united so that we can cope with the said problems.

Dear listeners: Regardless of developments in Cambodia, good understanding and intimate relations within the ASEAN grouping will force Vietnam to review its policy before the situation in Cambodia becomes further aggravated.

UDP OFFICIAL PROPOSES CABINET RESHUFFLE TO PREM

BK270536 Bangkok THE NATION in English 27 May 87 p 1

[Text] Chief adviser to the United Democratic Party (UDP), Col Phon Roenprasotwit, disclosed last night that he had proposed an "immediate Cabinet reshuffle" to Premier Prem Tinsulanon to include his party in the new line-up. The prime minister has remained non-committal over the formula suggested by the UDP chief.

Col Phon told THE NATION last night that he had held talks with the prime minister over the telephone recently on a prompt reshuffle of the Cabinet to "improve the image of the government."

The UDP's chief adviser said that under his formula proposed to the prime minister, each party in the coalition will have to sacrifice one or two portfolios.

"My formula is one Cabinet post for every seven -- instead of the current six MPs -- each political party in the coalition government has," he said.

Phon said that Gen Prem listened to his proposal but made no comment on the details of the suggestion. "He just said he would consider my formula," the UDP's chief adviser said.

If Col Phon's proposal is accepted, the Democrat Party will have to dispense with two Cabinet posts while Social Action and Chat Thai parties will have to reduce their respective portfolios by one each. Under the proposed line-up, the number of non-partisan Cabinet members handpicked by the prime minister will also be down by one or two, Col Phon suggested.

UDP has a total of 38 MPs, he said, adding that if his party was to join the new coalition, it should get about five to six seats in the Cabinet.

Col Phon even revealed the list of nominees for the Cabinet portfolios from his party should his formula be accepted for the new line-up. The include Col Phon himself, the party's Secretary General Tamchai Kamphato, former Deputy Communications Minister Pratuang Khamprakop, former Deputy Interior Minister Ophat Phonlasin, the party's spokesman Chongchai Thiangtham and Ruangwit Lik, an MP from Kamphaeng Phet.

If the changes should come about, he said, UDP leader Buntheng Thongsawat will not accept any Cabinet portfolio. "He will just remain party leader," he said.

At the same time, chairman of the prime minister's advisory board Chan Manutham said he supports the idea to reshuffle the Cabinet to shore up the government's stability and improve its overall image.

Chan said if a Cabinet reshuffle was to be effected, the most likely candidate to be included in the new coalition would be the UDP "because it has always demonstrated clear support for the government."

"Col Phon has backed the government all along. It is important that any party to join the coalition must have the sense of mutual trust," the chief adviser said.

He said under the present circumstances, he sees no need to remove any party in the coalition to accommodate UDP whose participation in the new set-up will undoubtedly bolster the government's position.

"If the UDP joins the coalition, the opposition will be left with only 76 MPs while the government will have an overwhelming majority of 270 MPs on its side," Chan said.

The chief adviser to the premier admitted that some current Cabinet members now do not enjoy public confidence. "There is a clear need to reshuffle the Cabinet or else the government's image could be affected," he said.

A Cabinet reshuffle, if it is to be effected, should take place after the budget bill is passed by Parliament in August, Chan suggested.

Another well-informed source in the Government House said that chances of UDP's joining the coalition are high -- to "further weaken the opposition." The source said that if UDP joins the coalition, there would be no need to take in Bunchu Rotchanasathian's Community Action Party (CAP) or Narong Wongwan's Ruam Thai Party.

CAP and Ruam Thai parties have been cited as possible candidates to join the coalition government if Gen Prem decides to reshuffle the Cabinet but leaders of the two parties have recently appeared less enthusiastic about such a move in the wake of the series of political controversies that have hit the government.

WHOLESALE INDEX JUMPS 2 PERCENT IN APRIL

BK280003 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 28 May 87 p 13

[Text] The wholesale price index in April jumped by 2 percent from the previous month, the highest monthly increase in five years, the Bank of Thailand said yesterday.

However, the consumer price index in the same month rose by only 0.5 percent, which was still in the favourable range despite higher prices fresh vegetables, fruits and other agricultural products.

The central bank said that prices of products in other sectors, including clothes, televisions, automobiles and pharmaceutical products also increased slightly.

The price index of export wholesales dropped by 1.3 percent because of declining prices of tapioca, raw sugar, mungbean, soybean and salt.

The inflation rate increased 1.8 percent a year in April, lower than 2.2 percent in the same period last year.

NGUYEN VAN LINH MAKES OFFICIAL VISIT TO USSR

Talks With Gorbachev

BK190345 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 18 May 87

[Text] As we have reported, at the invitation of the CPSU Central Committee, Comrade Nguyen Van Linh, general secretary of the CPV Central Committee, arrived in Moscow on the morning of 18 May 1987 for an official friendship visit to the Soviet Union. On the same day, high-level talks between Vietnam and the Soviet Union were held in the Kremlin.

Participating at the talks, on the Vietnamese side, were Comrade General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh and Comrades Do Muoi, Nguyen Co Thach, Hong Ha, Hoang Bich Son, Dau Ngoc Xuan, Nguyen Manh Cam, and Le Xuang Tung.

On the Soviet side were Comrade General Secretary Gorbachev and Comrades Ryskov, Ligachev, Shevardnadze, Talyzin, Kamentsev, Shakhnazarov, and Kachin.

The two sides informed each other of the implementation of the resolutions of the Sixth CPV Congress and the 27th CPSU Congress.

The two sides noted with great satisfaction the fruitful development of the close solidarity and all-sided cooperation between Vietnam and the Soviet Union on the basis of the Vietnam-USSR treaty of friendship and cooperation signed in 1978, whose 19th anniversary will be observed in the two countries next year.

Nguyen Van Linh expressed the profound sentiments of the communist party and people of Vietnam toward the Soviet Union for its great services over the past 70 years, since the October Socialist Revolution, to mankind's history and to the cause of peace and socialism the world over.

He reiterated the admiration and support of the Communist Party and people of Vietnam to the restructuration of far-reaching revolutionary significance which is taking place in the Soviet Union in line with the 27th CPSU Congress and the January 1987 session of the CPSU Central Committee.

Mikhail Gorbachev, for his part, highly appreciated the policy of creative and practical renewal made by the sixth CPV Congress, and reaffirmed the vigorous support of the communist party and people of the Soviet Union for that policy. He wished the Vietnamese people success in the implementation of the resolutions of the sixth CPV Congress and the second plenum of the sixth party Central Committee.

The two sides focussed their discussion on concrete orientations aimed at renovating and strengthening the Vietnam-USSR comprehensive cooperation in more diversified forms and with higher quality and realistic effectiveness. The CPV and CPSU leaders expressed the two parties' determination to further broaden the cooperation at different echelons, thoroughly study each others' experience, perfect the Vietnam-USSR relationship and implement the overall program of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance on the persistent principles of Marxism-Leninism and socialist internationalism, thus contributing to consolidating the strength of the three Indochinese countries and the socialist community as a whole.

The two sides agreed to sign during the visit a number of agreements on economic cooperation.

The leaders of the two parties had complete identity of views on all international issues. They affirmed their determination to co-ordinate their work in consolidating world peace and security, fully supporting the struggle of all nations for national independence and social progress. They pledged to do their utmost to prevent the arms race on the earth as well as in outer space.

The two sides are working hard toward the goal of turning Asia and the Pacific into a region of peace, security and cooperation on the basis of common efforts made by all countries in the region.

The two sides stressed that it is necessary to reduce tension in Southeast Asia. The Soviet Union supports the constructive policy and initiatives of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the People's Republic of Kampuchea, aimed at making healthy the political atmosphere in Southeast Asia and arriving at a political solution to the Kampuchean issue.

Vietnam and the Soviet Union advocate the policy of national reconciliation of the PRK government, the Kampuchean people's right to settle their own internal affairs without outside intervention, and the elimination for good of the genocidal Pol Pot regime. Vietnam and the Soviet Union hold that in seeking a solution to international aspects of the Kampuchean issue by a political means, it is necessary to take into account the realities in Kampuchea and the region. The Soviet Union consistently supports the efforts made by the SRV, the LPDR and the PRK aimed at building the foundation of socialism, defending their independence and national sovereignty, and consolidating the fraternal alliance and comprehensive co-operation between the three countries -- an important factor for peace and security in Southeast Asia.

The Vietnamese and Soviet leaders participating in the talks clearly voiced their countries' desire to normalise and improve their relations with the People's Republic of China, considering it a positive and major factor for the consolidation of stability in Asia and in the international life as a whole. The Soviet side supports the SRV's initiatives on conducting the Sino-Vietnamese talks to settle questions of mutual concern.

The two sides highly valued the significance of party General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh's official friendship visit to the Soviet Union, and of the high-level Vietnamese-Soviet talks, which mark a new step of development in the consolidation and strengthening of the close solidarity and comprehensive cooperation between Vietnam and the Soviet Union in the interests of the two peoples, the three Indochinese countries, the socialist community and world peace.

VNA Report

OW210749 Hanoi VNA in English 0728 GMT 21 May 87

[Text] Hanoi VNA May 21 -- Details of Nguyen Van Linh's talks with Mikhail Gorbachev in Moscow on May 19 during his official visit to the Soviet Union have been reported by VNA correspondent in the Soviet capital.

The two sides centered their discussions on the economic cooperation between the two countries.

Mikhail Gorbachev outlined the major measures taken by the Soviet Party and Government to effect reorganisation which essentially consists in combining the role of the central leading bodies and central planning with the autonomy and sense of responsibility of the localities and grassroots. Touching on questions of the agro-industrial complexes, he said the essential here is to broaden the concern of the farmers for the use of land and the end-results of their labour.

The Soviet leader expressed his support for the policies set forth at the 6th congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam giving priority to the three national economic programmes: food and foodstuff, consumer goods for home consumption and goods for export.

General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh informed his Soviet counterpart of Vietnam's economic situation. He said that the Communist Party of Vietnam is carrying out measures to take the country out of the present economic difficulties. These measures have been warmly received by the people. He said the people understand the problems and are determined to work better and to mobilize all possible capabilities of the country. As in the past, he continued, support and assistance from the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries are of great importance in helping Vietnam fulfil its national economic tasks.

The two sides stressed that the settlement of the socio-economic tasks facing the two countries requires that the two sides reorganize their economic cooperation in order to increase its efficiency.

The two leaders also compared notes on other issues of mutual concern.

The talks took place in an atmosphere of openness, comradeship and mutual understanding.

19 May Summary

BK200320 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 19 May 87

[Text] Comrade Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, held private talks with Comrade Nguyen Van Linh, general secretary of the CPV Central Committee, in the Kremlin on 19 May.

The two comrade general secretaries exchanged views on strengthening and raising the efficiency of the all-round cooperation between the two parties and countries and on important international issues of mutual concern.

The meeting took place in an atmosphere permeated with fraternal friendship.

On the same day, Comrade General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh and his party visited Lenin's mausoleum and laid a wreath. The delegation then visited and laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier by the Kremlin wall.

Comrade Nguyen Van Linh was accompanied by the Soviet comrades Medvedev, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee; Smirnovskiy, deputy chief of the CPSU Central Committee International Department; Kachin, member of the CPSU Central Committee and Soviet ambassador to the SRV; and Rogachev, deputy foreign minister.

Also on 19 May, Comrade Ryshkov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, held a working session with Comrade Do Muoi, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the CPV Central Committee. At the same time, Comrade Shevardnadse, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and Soviet minister for foreign affairs, held a working session with Comrade Nguyen Co Thach, member of the CPV Central Committee Political Bureau, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, and minister for foreign affairs of Vietnam.

On 19 May, the date of the 97th anniversary of President Ho Chi Minh's birthday, Comrade Nguyen Van Linh and his party called at and laid a wreath at the Headquarters of Communist International in Moscow, where Uncle Ho worked during the 1920's and 1930's. Afterward, they toured the Ho Chi Minh Square and laid a wreath at the site where a monument dedicated to President Ho Chi Minh will be erected. Everyone respectfully recalled the memory of and expressed profound gratitude to venerated and beloved Uncle Ho, the founder of our party and state, an outstanding international activist, and the great architect of the fraternal Vietnamese-Soviet friendship.

Comrade Nguyen Van Linh also toured a newly built street in Moscow.

Comrade Nguyen Van Linh and his party called at the Moscow City Soviet, where Lenin issued a directive on the task of building and defending the Soviet administration. Comrade Gusev, member of the CPSU Central Committee and vice chairman of the Soviet Council of Ministers; and Comrades Kachin, member of the CPSU Central Committee and Soviet ambassador to the SRV; Smirnovskiy, deputy chief of the CPSU Central Committee International Department; and Rogachev, Soviet deputy minister for foreign affairs, warmly greeted Comrade Nguyen Van Linh. Comrade Saykin, member of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the Moscow City Soviet Executive Committee, expounded on the tasks and operational experience of the city's Soviet. Comrade Nguyen Van Linh welcomed the achievements of the Moscow City Soviet and wished the people of Moscow many new accomplishments in implementing the resolution of the 27th CPSU congress, thereby commemorating in a practical manner the 70th anniversary of the Great October Revolution.

Cooperation Agreements Signed

OW191705 Hanoi VNA in English 1649 GMT 19 May 87

[Text] Hanoi VNA May 19 -- Four agreements on economic cooperation between Vietnam and the Soviet Union were signed in the Kremlin on May 19.

They include an agreement on cooperation in the production of light industrial articles, an agreement on cooperation in producing electric materials and technical equipment in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam in the 1987-90 period, an agreement on allround cooperation in processing Vietnam's coconut oil and other products from coconuts for the Soviet Union, and an agreement on all-sided cooperation in producing tea in Vietnam and its export to the Soviet Union.

Vietnamese and Soviet Party General Secretaries Nguyen Van Linh and Mikhail Gorbachev and many other senior party and state officials of the two countries were present at the signing ceremony.

Gorbachev Hosts Banquet**BK200504 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 19 May 87**

[Text] The CPSU Central Committee, the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, and the Soviet Government hosted a grand banquet in the (Granovitaya) Room of the Great Hall of the Kremlin on the evening of 19 May in honor of Comrade General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh.

Attending the banquet on the Soviet side were Comrades Vorotnikov, Gromyko, Zaykov, Ligachev, Ryshkov, Solomentsev, Chebrikov, Shevardnadze, Demichev, Dolgikh, Yeltsin, Slyunkov, Talysin, Biryukova, Dobrynin, Lukyanov, Medvedev, Nikonov, Razumovskiy, and many other Soviet party and state leaders.

Present on the Vietnamese side were Comrades Do Muoi, Nguyen Co Thach, Hong Ha, Hoang Bich Son, Dau Ngoc Xuan, Nguyen Manh Cam, and Le Xuan Tung.

Comrades Gorbachev and Nguyen Van Linh made speeches at the banquet, which took place in an atmosphere permeated with fraternal friendship.

Nguyen Van Linh Speech**BK201431 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 20 May 87**

["Full text" of reply speech by CPV General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh at 19 May Kremlin banquet in Moscow -- read by announcer]

[Text] Esteemed Comrade Gorbachev, dear comrades,

First of all, I should like to sincerely thank the CPSU Central Committee and Comrade Gorbachev for giving us a very hospitable welcome full of the comradely sentiments of the Soviet communists and people toward the Vietnamese Communist Party and people. We are very pleased with the results of the exchanges of views between ourselves and Comrade Gorbachev and the other Soviet leaders. The talks demonstrated a profound confidence in and a total identity of views on all issues of the socioeconomic development policy of each country as well as its foreign policy.

Dear comrades, our visit to the USSR is taking place at a time when the peoples of our two nations and the entire progressive mankind are making preparations to solemnly commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution. Over the past 70 years, following the paths of Lenin and the October Revolution, the heroic Soviet people have overcome all very great difficulties and ordeals and scored many brilliant achievements in their labor and struggle, thereby contributing decisively to basically changing the appearance of our planet and leading mankind to a historic turning point. Mankind is forever grateful to the Soviet Union for its enormous sacrifices and its contributions to the history of mankind and the cause of world peace and revolution.

Following the line of reform bearing revolutionary characteristics set forth by the 27th CPSU Congress and the January CPSU Central Committee Plenum, various of the great achievements of the October Revolution and socialism scored during the past 70 years have been enhanced to a new historic level, thereby manifesting the strength and creativity of Marxism-Leninism both theoretically and practically. This is a very valuable experience for fraternal parties to study and apply to their concrete conditions.

The comprehensive reform being carried out extensively in the Soviet Union has shaken world public opinion, provided mankind with confidence and strength in the struggle to eliminate a nuclear holocaust, and developed the superiority and enhanced the vitality of socialism to overcome prolonged sluggishness. The reform has further manifested the clear-sightedness and courage of the CPSU as well as the great role of the October Revolution's fatherland in the historic process of mankind. The reform has just begun, yet it is full of promise. All communists and the entire Vietnamese people are following this process with firm confidence that the Soviet Union will surely score victory, thereby opening up a new stage of development with a decisive meaning for the Soviet Union, socialism, and world peace.

Encouraged by the spirit of the 27th CPSU Congress, our Sixth CPV Congress expressed determination to profoundly renovate all aspects of our socioeconomic life, rearrange our production structure by concentrating on the three major economic programs, namely, the production of grain and foodstuffs, consumer goods, and export goods; implement a basic change in the economic management mechanism, eliminate bureaucratic centralism, and shift completely to socialist business accounting in order to gradually stabilize the socioeconomic situation; and create the conditions for socialist industrialization for the years ahead. Our party also intends to carry out extensive movements aimed at enhancing the combativeness and leadership capabilities of our party, consolidating state apparatuses, and developing the working people's collective mastery. There are numerous difficulties before us because this is a process of decisive struggle between the new and the old. The new can come into being and develop only on the basis of defeating the old one. However, with the spirit of renovation set forth by the Sixth CPV Congress, our people will surely overcome all ordeals and triumphantly carry out the tasks of building and defending our fatherland.

Dear comrades, we note with great pleasure that the faithful and pure friendship and comprehensive cooperation based on comradeship and fraternity between Vietnam and the Soviet Union — built and fostered by President Ho Chi Minh and the leading comrades of our two parties and countries — have been incessantly consolidated and developed. For past decades, the Communist Party and people of the Soviet Union have always accorded the Vietnamese people's revolutionary cause their strong support and great, disinterested assistance full of the lofty sentiments of proletarian internationalism. History over the past 70 years has testified to the truth that only after the birth of the Soviet state and with the support of the Soviet Union did the national liberation cause in the world win great success, topple colonialism, and defeat the military adventures undertaken by imperialism against Asian, African, and Latin American countries.

On this occasion, we would like to convey our deepest gratitude toward the party of Lenin and the great Soviet people for their noble feelings. In keeping with Lenin's teachings, our party profoundly realizes as always that to take a step of transition to socialism from a backward economy bypassing the stage of capitalistic development, an indispensable condition is to enjoy support and assistance from and cooperate with the Soviet Union — the first and most powerful socialist state.

To carry out the big and complex tasks set forth by the sixth congress a pressing requirement now facing Vietnam is to vigorously enhance the effectiveness of its cooperation with the Soviet Union so as to upgrade the effectiveness of this cooperation. In the field of production in particular, our policy is to step up the process of production specialization and cooperation and effect an international division of labor between our two countries.

For this goal, we agree to effect cooperation at all three levels -- government, sector, and production unit -- and establish direct relations and joint ventures on the basis of linking the responsibilities with the interests of both sides. It is certain that with the spirit of renovation adopted by our two party congresses, Vietnamese-Soviet cooperation in the coming period will enter a qualitatively new stage of development, assume an ever broader scale with each passing day, be enriched with new forms, and become increasingly effective, thus making an effective contribution to building and perfecting socialism in our two countries and to consolidating the world socialist community. We are convinced that Vietnamese-Soviet cooperation will serve as a shining example of the relationship between a developed industrial country and an economically backward country as well as that of a developed socialist country helping an economically backward socialist country approach the level of development of advanced socialist countries.

Dear comrades, the world situation is undergoing momentous and rapid changes. The struggle between revolution and counterrevolution in the world is raging intensely. At the same time, the trend of struggle for peaceful coexistence between the two systems is developing vigorously. With its Leninist foreign policy based on a new political thinking of a revolutionary and scientific character, the Soviet Union is developing its role as a center and a driving force for accelerating the process of easing tension, repelling the threat of a nuclear war, and consolidating peace and security in the entire world. The communist party and people of Vietnam warmly welcome and fully support the important constructive initiatives put forward by the Soviet Union. These initiatives reflect a new stature of the Soviet Union's peaceful foreign policy over the past 70 years, demonstrate its lofty responsibility toward the life of mankind and its civilization, and bring into even sharper relief its vanguard role in international relations.

Peace, security, and development are the imperative demands of the Asian-Pacific region where an extremely fierce struggle has been going on over the past 40 years and more between the forces of socialism, national dependence, and progress and the forces of imperialism and reaction in the form of the bloodiest and longest wars in the world. This struggle has brought very profound changes to this very important region of the world. Today, the Asian-Pacific situation still remains complicated. In contrast with the tension-causing line of imperialism and reactionary forces, the famous statement made by Comrade Gorbachev at Vladivostok in July last year and the highly dynamic and positive diplomatic activities undertaken by the Soviet Union in the past year and more with the aim of advancing step by step toward establishing a peace and security system in Asia and the Pacific respond to the ardent aspirations of the Asian nations and promote the trend toward peaceful coexistence which is developing in the region and the rest of the world.

Being victims of the world's largest and most brutal wars of aggression in the past 40 years, the Vietnamese people, as well as the Lao and Cambodian peoples, know better than anybody else the value of peace and wish for friendship and cooperation with all countries in the world, first of all the neighboring countries. The three Indochinese peoples are determined to struggle for the defense of their independence and sovereignty, consolidate the close solidarity and comprehensive cooperation between the three countries, and at the same time, persist in their effort to consolidate peace and stability in Southeast Asia as well as peace and security in Asia and the Pacific.

Coordinating with the Soviet Union in the Asia-Pacific strategy, the three Indochinese countries advocate a policy of holding dialogue with China and the regional countries on the basis of equality, respect for each other's independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity, and mutual understanding in order to jointly seek a political solution to peace and stability in Southeast Asia and the Cambodian issue.

In the past 8 years, the SRV, the LPDR, and the PRK have incessantly put forward constructive initiatives aimed at reaching a political solution to the Cambodian issue the two basic questions of which include the withdrawal of troops by Vietnam and the elimination of the genocidal Pol Potist criminals, so as to put an end to foreign intervention in Cambodia's internal affairs.

With the concept of respecting long-term interests, Vietnam is ready to turn over a new leaf in relations with China and the ASEAN countries and is prepared for conversations and meetings with China and the ASEAN countries to resolve all issues of mutual interest so as to rapidly normalise relations with neighboring countries in conformity with the interests of their peoples and of peace in Southeast Asia and Asia and the Pacific.

Dear comrades, the results of this visit mark a qualitatively new step of development in the relations of friendship and comprehensive cooperation between our two parties and countries. This is for us, a great source of encouragement and a strong support that will help us overcome difficulties and successfully carry out the tasks set forth at the sixth congress of our party. Always acting upon President Ho Chi Minh's teachings, we pledge to remain forever faithful to the line of close solidarity and comprehensive cooperation between Vietnam and the Soviet Union and fulfill our responsibilities in order to enhance the effectiveness of cooperation in the interests of our two peoples and of socialism, peace, and progress in the world.

Long live the spirit of the October Revolution!

May the Soviet people under the CPSU's leadership successfully carry out the resolution of the 27th CPSU Congress!

May the great friendship, militant solidarity, and comprehensive cooperation between Vietnam and the Soviet Union be constantly consolidated and developed!

Good health to Comrade Gorbachev and other leading comrades of the Soviet party, state, and government!

Good health to the leading comrades of the Vietnamese party, state, and government!

Good health to all Soviet and Vietnamese comrades present here!

20 May Activities

BK211045 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 20 May 87

[Text] On the morning of 20 May, at the Soviet Union's House of Friendship With Other Nations, Comrade Nguyen Van Linh, general secretary of the CPV Central Committee, met with active members of the Soviet-Vietnam Friendship Society.

Welcoming Comrades Nguyen Van Linh at the House of Friendship were Comrades Biryukova, secretary of the party Central Committee; Tereshkova, member of the party Central Committee and chairman of the Union of Soviet Societies for Friendship and Cultural Relations With Foreign Countries; Kachin, member of the party Central Committee and Soviet ambassador to our country; Smirnovskiy, deputy chief of the party Central Committee Foreign Relations (as heard) Department; and Titov, chairman of the Soviet-Vietnam Friendship Society Central Committee.

On behalf of the Soviet-Vietnam Friendship Society, Comrade Titov heartily welcomed the comrade general secretary of the CPV Central Committee and expressed the intimate sentiments and fraternal friendship felt by the Soviet people in general and members of the Soviet-Vietnam Friendship Society in particular toward the fraternal Vietnamese people.

Speaking at the meeting, Comrade Nguyen Van Linh highly appreciated the activities of the Soviet-Vietnam Friendship Society, which has made important contributions to the strengthening of Vietnamese-Soviet fraternal friendship and comprehensive cooperation. He expressed gratitude toward the party, government, and people of the Soviet Union for their great, highly effective assistance and support full of the lofty spirit of socialist internationalism.

Comrade Nguyen Van Linh expressed the hope that in the spirit of renovation, the Soviet-Vietnamese Friendship Society and its Vietnamese counterpart will further enhance the effectiveness of Vietnamese-Soviet cooperation in every locality and grass-roots unit.

Also on the morning of 20 May, Comrade Nguyen Van Linh visited the exhibition of Soviet national economic achievements. Accompanying him, on the Soviet side, were Comrades Biryukova, Kachin, and Smirnovskiy. Comrades Yefremov, first deputy chairman of the USSR State Committee for Science and Technology, and (Savyev), director general of the exhibition, briefed the comrade general secretary about the exhibition's diverse attractions and guided him on a tour of the pavilion of consumer goods and public services, which depicted 1 year's implementation of the integrated program for the production of consumer goods and public services and reflected the light industry sector's efforts to better meet the people's ever-increasing demands in support of the process of reforms.

On the same morning, Comrade Nguyen Van Linh visited our country's embassy in the Soviet Union. He was warmly welcomed by the embassy cadres. Comrade Nguyen Van Linh inquired after their living and working conditions. Talking to the embassy cadres, he praised their past efforts and achievements. He urged that in the qualitatively new step of development of Vietnamese-Soviet cooperation, the embassy cadres must renovate their thinking and work style to make cooperation with the Soviet Union most effective and strive to study and learn from the Soviet experience.

The comrade general secretary urged the embassy cadres to display an attitude of socialist cooperation, protect and assist one another, uphold revolutionary ethics and qualities, and preserve the prestige and honor of our party and state in the international arena.

On behalf of all the embassy's cadres and personnel, Ambassador Nguyen Manh Cam pledged with Comrade Nguyen Van Linh to strive to carry out his instructions and fulfill the tasks entrusted by the party and state so as to be worthy of the responsibility and honor of Vietnamese party members and cadres on overseas assignment and to contribute to the process of renovation and the three major economic programs now underway at home. He wished the comrade general secretary good health to join with the party Central Committee in leading the entire party and people in carrying out the country's current revolutionary tasks successfully.

On the afternoon of 20 May, Comrade Nguyen Van Linh and his entourage visited the Paris Commune Shoe Factory in Moscow where they attended a Soviet-Vietnamese friendship meeting.

Accompanying Comrade Nguyen Van Linh in his visit to the factory and attending the meeting on the Soviet side were Comrades Yeltsin, candidate member of the Politburo and first secretary of the Moscow City party committee; Medvedev, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee; Klyuyev, member of the CPSU Central Committee and minister of light industry; Kachin, member of the CPSU Central Committee and Soviet ambassador to Vietnam; Smirnovskiy, deputy head of the CPSU Central Committee's Foreign Relations Department; and Titov, chairman of the Soviet-Vietnam Friendship Society Central Committee. Comrade (Nikitin), director general of the (Jaria) United Shoe Enterprise -- with the Paris Commune Shoe Factory as its main plant -- gave a briefing on the growth of the factory and guided the comrade general secretary on a tour of a number of workshops at the factory.

Comrade Nguyen Van Linh solicitously enquired about the living and working conditions of workers of both sexes and about changes the factory is undergoing in the current restructuring.

Speaking at the meeting, Comrade (Nikitin) warmly welcomed Comrade Nguyen Van Linh's official friendship visit to the Soviet Union. He expressed the heart-felt sentiments and the close friendship between the peoples of the Soviet Union and Vietnam. He affirmed the Soviet people's determination to constantly strengthen and consolidate the friendship between the two nations and to qualitatively upgrade the bilateral cooperation to a new level. Comrade Nguyen Van Linh delivered a speech at the meeting.

Also on the afternoon of 20 May, at the conference hall of Moscow University, Comrade Nguyen Van Linh received the representatives of Vietnamese on public assignment duties and those working or studying in the Soviet Union. Representatives of our embassy cadres, various Vietnamese representational bodies, students, researchers, on-the-job trainees, and workers gave the comrade general secretary a warm welcome.

Comrade Nguyen Van Linh solicitously enquired about their living, working, and studying conditions. The comrade hailed and cited their efforts and achievements on public assignments and in study, scientific and technical research, and work, saying that this is a contribution to our people's revolutionary cause and developing the unity and cooperation between Vietnam and the Soviet Union.

Touching on the fine results of his particularly important visit this time, the comrade pointed out that these results will have a great impact on the implementation of the resolution of the Sixth CPV Congress and will constitute a new source of encouragement for our people.

The comrade urged them to realize thoroughly the renovative spirit in Vietnamese-Soviet cooperative relations if they are to carry out their official duties and learn, study, and work more satisfactorily and effectively and in a way more useful to the country.

Turning to the country's socioeconomic situation, the comrade emphasized: The overriding substance of the Sixth CPV Congress is to achieve all-round renovation to realize the essential targets laid down in the three major economic programs. The resolution of the CPV Central Committee's second plenum shows a very important step of renovation in terms of the economic management mechanism. What is decisive now is that our entire party and people be of the same mind and will in trying to work better toward renovating their way of thinking, work methods, and the organizational structure of cadres.

The comrade said: Despite numerous difficulties still facing the country, in the light of the resolution of the Sixth CPV Congress, our entire party and people will step-by-step steer the socioeconomic situation toward stabilization and in a good direction.

The comrade general secretary urged them to clearly realize the situation and their tasks, improve their sense of responsibility toward the country and the people, and be worthy of their heroic fatherland, saying that wherever they are and whatever their positions they must work and study satisfactorily; lead a healthy life; contribute to strengthening friendship and solidarity with the Soviet people; always uphold revolutionary ethics and qualities; and do nothing detrimental to the prestige and honor of our fatherland, people, and party. He recalled that it was here that Uncle Ho had once talked to the Vietnamese community in Moscow and urged overseas Vietnamese to fulfill their tasks and uphold revolutionary ethics and qualities. He stressed: All of us should continue to follow his shining example in working and studying satisfactorily and leading a healthy life to fulfill the tasks assigned by the party, state, and people.

On behalf of the Vietnamese community in Moscow, Ambassador Nguyen Manh Cam expressed sincere gratitude toward the comrade general secretary for his concern and feelings. He pledged that all the Vietnamese community in the Soviet Union will further uphold their sense of responsibility; strive to fulfill their tasks, work, and study; make their contributions to national construction; constantly enhance their qualities and ethics; actively struggle to prevent and overcome negative phenomena' and, at the same time, further consolidate and develop the fraternal friendship and comprehensive cooperation between the two parties and peoples in keeping with the requirements of the new stage of development and with the spirit of reforms in the Soviet Union and of renovation in Vietnam. He wished the comrade general secretary abundant good health to join with the Political Bureau and the party Central Committee in leading our people to implement our sixth party congress' resolution successfully.

SRV-USSR Joint Statement

OW220831 Hanoi VNA in English 0814 GWT 22 May 87

[Text] Hanoi VNA May 22 — Follows the full text of the Vietnamese-Soviet statement:

The general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam Nguyen Van Linh stayed in the Soviet Union on an official friendly visit from May 17 to 22, 1987 at the invitation of the Central Committee of the CPSU.

Talks were conducted between the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Mikhail Gorbachev and Nguyen Van Linh.

Also attending the talks on the Vietnamese side were member of the Political Bureau of the CPV Central Committee, Secretary of the CPV Central Committee Do Muoi; Member of the Political Bureau of the CPV Central Committee, Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the SRV Nguyen Co Thach; member of the CPV Central Committee, Head of the Office of the CPV Central Committee Hong Ha; Member of the CPV Central Committee Hoang Bich Son; Member of the CPV Central Committee First Deputy Chairman of the SRV State Planning Committee Dau Ngoc Xuan; Member of the CPV Central Committee, Ambassador of the SRV in the USSR Nguyen Manh Cam, Alternate Member of the CPV Central Committee, Assistant to the General Secretary of the CPV Central Committee Le Xuan Tung.

On the Soviet side were N. Ryskov, Politburo member of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the Council of Ministers; Y. Ligachev, Politburo member and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee; E. Shevardnadze, Politburo member of the CPSU Central Committee and minister for foreign affairs; N. Talyzin, alternate Politburo member of the CPSU Central Committee, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and chairman of the State Planning Committee; V. Kamenshev, member of the CPSU Central Committee, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and chairman of the State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations; G. Shakhmurov, first deputy head of the Commission for External Relations of the CPSU Central Committee; D. Kachin member of the CPSU Central Committee and ambassador to Vietnam.

There was a separate meeting between Nguyen Van Linh and Mikhail Gorbachev.

The indepth exchange of views, held in the atmosphere of traditional friendship and mutual understanding, confirmed the common approaches of the CPV and the CPSU to pressing questions of socialist construction and international politics.

Nguyen Van Linh spoke about the fulfilment of the decisions adopted by the 6th CPV Congress, the process of renewal that has started in the country in the sphere of economic management and is directed at an all-round stabilisation of the socio-economic situation, the creation of prerequisites for a gradual expansion of the scale of socialist industrialisation and advancing the country.

Mikhail Gorbachev spoke highly of the creative, realistic course of renewal worked out by the 6th CPV Congress, confirmed the Soviet Union's support of this course and wished the Vietnamese people a successful fulfilment of the decisions of the congress.

When informing Nguyen Van Linh about the life of the party and the Soviet Union, Mikhail Gorbachev noted the crucial nature of the present stage in the development of the Soviet society, the depth and consistency of the process of renewal started on the initiative of the CPSU.

Nguyen Van Linh expressed the CPV and the Vietnamese people's feelings of profound admiration for the services to mankind of the Soviet Union and its tremendous contribution during the past 70 years to the struggle for peace and socialism.

The Vietnamese communists and the entire Vietnamese people are inspired by the profound revolutionary restructuring effected in the USSR in accordance with the course of the 27th CPSU Congress and the January 1987 plenary meeting of the CPSU Central Committee. It embodies the creative force of Marxism-Leninism and gives the fraternal parties valuable experience which can be used by them with due account for the concrete conditions of their countries.

The talks centered on questions of bilateral relations.

The Vietnamese and Soviet peoples treasure the friendship and fruitful interaction between the CPV and the CPSU, the SRV and the USSR which have a long and glorious history. The Vietnamese-Soviet brotherhood has formed under the influence of the ideas of the Great October Socialist Revolution the light of which was brought to Vietnam by the outstanding communist of the Leninist school, Ho Chi Minh, and his dedicated associates.

Having passed the trial of lengthy revolutionary struggle the fraternal relations of the two peoples are becoming increasingly closer.

Nguyen Van Linh expressed the sincere gratitude of the CPV and the Vietnamese people to the CPSU and the Soviet people for the invariable support of and the big and generous assistance to the SNV in the struggle for national liberation, in the cause of building socialism and defending the homeland. He confirmed that the further strengthening of cohesion and all-round cooperation with the Soviet Union is a cornerstone of the Communist Party of Vietnam.

The leaders of the CPV and the CPSU expressed the resolve of their parties to expand cooperation at various levels, make an indepth study of each other's experience, and perfect Vietnamese-Soviet relations on the basis of the principles of Marxism-Leninism and socialist internationalism, the treaty of friendship and cooperation between the SRV and the USSR, the tenth anniversary of which will be celebrated in 1988, the long-term programme of developing economic and scientific-technical cooperation between Vietnam and the Soviet Union.

The sides specially emphasized the importance at the new stage of the Vietnamese-Soviet treaty which accords with the interest of building socialism and communism in the two countries, the cause of peace in Southeast Asia, the Asia-Pacific region and in the whole world.

It was stressed that the growing scale of Vietnamese-Soviet interaction, the new approaches to questions of the socioeconomic development of their respective countries worked out by the 27th CPSU Congress and the 6th CPV Congress persistently demand an increase in the effectiveness of cooperation in the direction of socialist integration, international division of labour, co-production and specialisation of production, and a more active use of the principles of socialist economic management.

In the coming years, the Vietnamese-Soviet economic cooperation will be concentrated on the production and processing of agricultural produce, the output of consumer goods, the development in the SRV of the power industry, transport as well as machine-building, electronic, chemical and mining industries on the full utilisation of the existing production capacities and labour resources. Agreement was reached on the vigorous development of cooperation not only on the interstate level but also on the level of ministries and enterprises.

The two sides will search for new highly effective forms and fields of cooperation. They will set up joint amalgamations and enterprises, take the necessary measures to modernise enterprises built with the USSR's technical assistance and ensure their operation to full capacity.

Cooperation in the scientific-technical field will be expanded, first of all to ensure the three major economic programmes determined by the 6th CPV Congress, and also in the training of scientific managerial personnel and skilled workers.

A number of agreements on Vietnamese-Soviet economic cooperation were signed during the visit.

The sides agreed that the Soviet Union will help Vietnam in working out a long-term economic development programme.

The Vietnamese and Soviet leaders declared for the adoption of a number of additional measures to develop economic ties between Vietnam and the Soviet Far East.

Agreement was reached on the setting up of a Vietnamese-Soviet inter-governmental commission on cultural cooperation, on increasing exchanges between the creative art associations of the two countries. The days of Soviet culture in the SRV (1987), devoted to the 70th anniversary of the Great October Revolution, and the days of Vietnamese culture in the USSR (1990), timed to coincide with the 45th anniversary of the proclamation of Vietnam's independence and the centenary of the birth of President Ho Chi Minh, are to become major events.

The sides will continue their interaction in the training and retraining of specialists in the field of culture, the study of the Russian language in Vietnam and the study of the Vietnamese language in the Soviet Union.

Nguyen Van Linh and Mikhail Gorbachev confirmed the principled line of the CPV and the CPSU of further strengthening the unity and cohesion of the socialist community, of developing to the maximum the initiative, vigour and creativity of each party and country.

They noted the definitive importance of working meetings held by the top leaders of fraternal parties for working out agreed-upon directions of the mutual cooperation and the common course of the countries of the socialist community in international affairs.

The participants of the talks declared for further perfecting the mechanism of conferences of central committee secretaries of the fraternal parties, for making other forms of the multilateral cooperation of socialist countries more effective.

The SRV and the USSR will further closely interact in the interests of deepening socialist economic integration, fulfilling the comprehensive programme of the scientific-technical progress of member countries of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA) to the year 2000 and perfecting the CMEA's activities.

The Soviet Union will take an active part in drawing up within the framework of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance of a programme for helping the national economic development of Vietnam, Mongolia and Cuba in its efficient implementation.

The exchanges of opinions reaffirmed the identity of views held by the CPV and the CPSU on pressing international problems, the determination of Vietnam and the Soviet Union to actively interact to strengthen international peace and general security, and their solidarity with popular struggles for national independence and social progress.

Mikhail Gorbachev spoke about the activities of the CPSU and the Soviet state to promote Soviet initiatives for lessening international tension and about the Soviet Union's practical steps to affirm a new mode of political thinking in world affairs and develop relations of goodneighbourliness and cooperation in Europe, Asia and other parts of the world.

A description was given of the present state of Soviet-U.S. relations and the course of talks on nuclear and space arms in Geneva, and stress was laid on the fundamental significance of a Soviet proposal for eliminating the Soviet and U.S. medium-range missiles from Europe and embarking on talks without delay for reducing and subsequently eliminating the theatre missiles on station on the European continent.

Nguyen Van Linh reiterated complete support by the CPV and the Vietnamese people for the new and important peace initiatives by the USSR. He said that the Soviet Union, pursuing a Leninist foreign policy, is the principal motive force in efforts for easing tension, fending off the threat of a nuclear war, and enhancing peace and security throughout the world.

The leaders of the CPV and the CPSU expressed resolve to do everything to break the dangerous trend in world development, stop the arms race on earth, prevent its extension to outer space, and make sure that the enormous funds now spent on military purposes will be directed instead to solving urgent problems, most notably those in developing countries.

Vietnam and the Soviet Union are firmly committed to the idea of turning the Asian-Pacific region into a region of peace, stability, goodneighbourliness and cooperation through joint efforts by all states of the region and an all-round approach to the problems of ensuring its security. The realisation of this idea would be facilitated by a just settlement of existing conflicts by political means, the non-buildup and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons in the region, a scaling down of naval activities in the Pacific, the implementation of practical measures to establish nuclear-free zones, cuts in armed forces and conventional armaments, and the creation of an atmosphere of mutual trust.

Both sides stressed the importance of reducing tension in Southeast Asia as soon as possible. The Soviet Union supports the resourceful policy of Vietnam, Laos and Kampuchea directed at improving the political climate in Southeast Asia and developing friendly relations with the ASEAN countries and other nations in the Asian-Pacific region.

Vietnam and the USSR identify with the national reconciliation policy of the government of the People's Republic of Kampuchea, whose realisation would meet the vital interests of the Kampuchean people and their right to decide their destiny themselves and help restore peace in the region. The internal problems of Kampuchea should be solved by the Kampuchean people themselves.

Vietnam and the Soviet Union believe that the search for ways of settling the international aspects of the Kampuchean problem by political means should be conducted with regard to realities in the region and with the involvement in this or that form of all sides concerned. Vietnam and the Soviet Union are strongly for giving Kampuchea its lawful place in the United Nations and other international organisations.

The Soviet Union invariably supports efforts by the working people of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the People's Republic of Kampuchea to lay the foundations of socialism, protect the independence and national sovereignty of their countries, and strengthen their fraternal alliance and all-round cooperation, which is an important factor for peace and stability in Southeast Asia.

The leaders of the CPV and the CPSU stressed the constructive nature of the Afghan government's policy aimed at achieving national reconciliation in the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and a political settlement of the situation regarding that country and of the Afghan people's efforts to build a sovereign, independent and non-aligned Afghanistan.

The participants in the talks pointed to a desire by their countries to normalise and improve relations with the People's Republic of China, which would be a major positive factor for stronger stability in Asia and in international life in general. They would also greet China's active involvement in the search for ways of solving the complex problems of the Asian continent. The Soviet side supported Vietnam's initiative for holding Vietnamese-Chinese talks with a view to settling contentious issues as soon as possible.

The conviction was expressed during the talks that improvements in the situation on the Korean peninsula would be facilitated by the realization of proposals by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for resuming dialogue between the north and south of Korea and creating a nuclear-free zone there.

Solidarity was reaffirmed with a proposal by the Mongolian People's Republic for creating a mechanism to exclude the use of force in relations between states in Asia and the Pacific. Vietnam and the USSR attach much importance to the Delhi Declaration and the principles recorded there for building a world free from nuclear weapons and violence, and think highly of India's contribution to resolving regional and general international problems in the interests of stronger peace and stability on the Asian continent and throughout the planet.

The Vietnamese and Soviet leaders hailed the active role of the non-aligned movement in efforts against imperialism, neo-colonialism and racism and for an end to the arms race, for eliminating nuclear weapons and for peace and international security.

During their stay in Moscow Nguyen Van Linh and the persons accompanying him laid wreaths at Vladimir Lenin's mausoleum and at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at the Kremlin wall and visited the museum "Vladimir Lenin's study and apartment in the Kremlin". Flowers were also placed at the memorial plaque honouring Ho Chi Minh and at the site of a future monument to him.

The Vietnamese leaders had a talk at the executive committee of the Moscow City Soviet, visited the exhibition of the economic achievements of the USSR, saw new residential areas in the Soviet capital, attended a rally of Soviet-Vietnamese friendship at the footwear factory Parizhskaya Kommuna and familiarised themselves with the accomplishments of its work collective. A meeting was held with activists of the Soviet-Vietnamese Friendship Society.

Nguyen Van Linh expressed deep gratitude for the warm and cordial reception accorded him and the persons accompanying him.

The visit by Nguyen Van Linh, general secretary of the CPV Central Committee, to the USSR was a striking demonstration of the inviolability of Vietnamese-Soviet friendship. The talks held in Moscow mark a further important step in improving and developing the entire package of relations between the CPV and the CPSU and between Vietnam and the USSR and in deepening the two countries' interaction on the international scene in the interests of peace and international security.

On behalf of the CPV Central Committee, Nguyen Van Linh conveyed to Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, an invitation to pay an official friendly visit to Vietnam. The invitation was accepted with gratitude.

Address At Moscow Factory

BK221345 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 22 May 87

[Speech by Nguyen Van Linh, general secretary of CPV Central Committee, at Parizhskaya Kommuna Footwear Factory in Moscow on 20 May -- read by announcer]

[Text] Dear comrades, we are very happy to visit the footwear factory bearing the name of the Paris Commune and to have the opportunity to meet the collective of its workers, a component of the heroic Soviet working class which successfully carried out the October revolution, which has always been the vanguard of the Soviet people's glorious revolutionary cause over the past 70 years, and which today is taking the lead in the great reforms initiated by the CPSU. I would like to convey to all of you, comrades, the heartfelt sentiments of the fraternal Vietnamese working class and laborers and wish you many new successes.

Comrades, to every one of us Vietnamese, each visit to Lenin's homeland, the cradle of world socialism, unfailingly rekindles untold profound emotions and boundless admiration for the glorious cause of the communist party and people of the Soviet Union.

This time, in our visit to the Soviet Union, our enthusiasm has increased manyfold because at present the peoples of our two countries and the entire progressive mankind are joyously preparing to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Great October Revolution, a unique event in mankind's history on account of its historical dimensions, of the deep impressions it left in the hearts and minds of humanity, and of its global scale.

Over the past 7 decades, the Soviet people have achieved untold glorious exploits in defending and building their beloved motherland while making decisive contributions to changing the entire situation of the world. Especially with the illustrious exploits recorded in the antifascist war of which we recently marked the 42d anniversary, the Soviet people made an extremely important contribution to the birth of the world socialist system which spread from Europe to Asia and, later even to Latin America, thereby spurring the movements for national independence, welfare, democracy, and peace to develop unceasingly.

The revolutionary spirit and creative talents of the Soviet people are once again brilliantly reflected in the reforms of social life in all respects and in the highly dynamic diplomatic activities carried out by the Soviet state in the light of the resolutions of the 27th CPSU congress and the January 1987 plenum of the CPSU Central Committee plenum.

Over the past year and more, the activities of the Soviet Union have had a strong impact in the world. The initial results of the reform campaign have clearly shown the superiority and tremendous vitality of socialism and have opened vast prospects for lifting the Soviet state to new and brilliant heights of development by the end of this century.

Recently, the Soviet Union successfully tested an extremely powerful rocket capable of carrying a reusable spacecraft into space. This is a great achievement which has ushered in a new stage of development in the domain of Soviet space science.

The Vietnamese communists and people follow with profound confidence the fraternal Soviet people's efforts in their reform and totally support the peace initiatives put forth by the CPSU, the Soviet state, and Comrade Gorbachev to defend world peace, oppose the arms race on earth and in space, and advance to a world free of nuclear weapons and the use of violence in international relations.

The Soviet Union's contributions to the defense of peace are becoming a powerful driving force of the broad struggle movement for peace in the world. The Soviet Union has become a strong bulwark of world peace.

From the bottom of our hearts, we wish the Soviet people many new and even more brilliant successes, thereby bringing glory to the great cause of the October Revolution.

We are happy to visit your factory, one that has, since this year, shifted to a new operating system in the direction of improving planning work, promoting increased production with economic incentives, and perfecting the management over the production of consumer goods. The factory's dynamism in planning and its relations with other enterprises have further improved. The factory has established cooperative relations with Vietnam's shoe making industry. The factory's achievements have attested to the correctness of the reform line. We warmly hail you, comrades, for your fine achievements.

Dear comrades, at present, in the light of the resolution of the Sixth CPV Congress, our entire party and people are making utmost efforts to achieve a comprehensive renovation of the socioeconomic life in order to proceed to stabilizing the socioeconomic situation and to continue building the necessary bases for socialist industrialization in the ensuing stage.

In order to achieve this overriding duty and overall objective, we are restructuring production and investments to have them centered on the three major economic programs for grain and foodstuffs, consumer goods, and export goods. This is being carried out under a management mechanism that advocates discarding bureaucratic centralism and state subsidies and shifting completely to economic accounting and social business.

Simultaneously, we are carrying out various motivation drives to improve the militant strength and the leadership capacity of the party and the efficiency of the state apparatus and broaden the people's right to mastery. These are indispensable premises needed for achieving those targets laid down by our party congress.

On the diplomatic front, our party and people are determined to do their best to strengthen militant solidarity and comprehensive cooperation with the Soviet Union and other socialist countries, to consolidate and develop the special relations with fraternal Laos and Cambodia, and to make their worthy contributions to the common struggle for peace, national independence, democracy, and socialism in the world, as well as to the struggle for peace and security in Asia and the Pacific.

[Text] At the same time, we are ready to expand our relations with countries having different sociopolitical systems on the basis of peaceful coexistence, trying to turn Southeast Asia into a zone of peace, stability, and cooperation.

At present, our people are still encountering acute difficulties.

However, with the renovative determination advocated by the Sixth CPV Congress and with the wholehearted assistance and cooperation of the Soviet Union and other fraternal countries, our people will certainly be able to overcome all ordeals in implementing successfully the two tasks of building and defending the socialist Vietnamese fatherland for the sake of peace and socialist progress in this important region in the world.

Dear comrades, the Vietnamese revolution has, since its embryonic stage, always associated itself with the immortal doctrine of Lenin and with the great thoughts of the October Revolution. It is due to their unswerving determination to follow the path charted by Lenin and by the October Revolution that the Vietnamese people, under the clear-sighted leadership of President Ho Chi Minh — a great communist of the three Indochinese countries — have advanced from being an enslaved nation not listed on the world map to a free nation respected by the world people, which is advancing along the path of building the most advanced society — a socialist society.

Every victorious stage of the Vietnamese people is inseparable from the generous support and disinterested assistance of the fraternal Soviet people. During the years of struggle against French colonialism and especially during the arduous anti-U.S. resistance, our people always had the Soviet people by their side. The Soviet people gave their wholehearted support and assistance to us so we could carry on our fighting and win victory.

Now in our peace-time construction, our people have again been given great assistance by the Soviet Union. Hundreds of socialist projects have sprung up in all parts of Vietnam with Soviet assistance. Thousands of the Soviet people's sons and brothers have worked and are working selflessly at various worksites in Vietnam. They are joining us in overcoming difficulties and hardships, trying to help the Vietnamese people build socialism. Tens of thousands of the Vietnamese people's sons and brothers now studying and working in the Soviet Union have been wholeheartedly cared for, educated, and assisted by the Soviet people. Soviet support and assistance is one of the factors deciding the historic victories won by Vietnam at Dien Bien Phu, during the Ho Chi Minh Campaign that totally liberated the south, as well as in our cause to build socialism and defend the Vietnamese fatherland.

The comradely and fraternal relationship between our two parties and peoples, which was established when we were stateless citizens, has developed over past decades, gaining a new vitality and quality with the signing of the treaty of friendship and cooperation whose 10th anniversary will be celebrated next year. On the basis of this historic treaty, contacts and coordinated actions at each level and cooperation in all fields — political, economic, scientific-technological, cultural, ideological, and so forth — will be constantly consolidated and expanded on a new scale and with a new depth. The faithful and pure relationship between our two parties and peoples is, in reality, a model of the new-type relationship between nations that are jointly building socialism.

The meetings and talks in the past 2 days between ourselves and Comrade Gorbachev and other leading comrades of the Soviet party and state and the documents signed reflect the fine results of our visit and the solidarity and unshakable identity of views between our two parties and countries. This will serve as a new source of encouragement for our people to overcome difficulties and trials in successfully implementing the tasks set forth at our historic sixth party congress.

We learn with great pleasure that your factory has been and is making worthy contributions to Vietnamese-Soviet cooperation. With the signing of a treaty of bilateral cooperation in light industry is certain that the relations between your collective and our war production units will develop vigorously.

Implementing the teachings of President Ho Chi Minh who painstakingly fostered Vietnamese-Soviet friendship, our party always considers close solidarity and comprehensive cooperation with the Soviet Union the cornerstone of its foreign policy, and as the Sixth CPV Congress affirmed recently, a sure guarantee for successfully building socialism in Vietnam. This is also the deep sentiment of every Vietnamese, which is passed on from one generation to another and never fades away. Our party and people will do their best to protect this precious asset and further develop it with each passing day.

Once again, I would like to express, on behalf of the Vietnamese communists and people, our sincere gratitude for the great support and assistance given by the Soviet party, government, working class and laboring people to Vietnam's revolutionary cause.

Comrades, I wish you good health, happiness, and many new successes in your emulation drive to score achievements in celebration of the 70th anniversary of the October Revolution.

Long live the great friendship, close solidarity and comprehensive cooperation between Vietnam and the Soviet Union!

Long live the glorious CPSU and the great Soviet people!

USSR Spokesman on Visit

OW201800 Hanoi VNA in English 1725 GMT 20 May 87

[Text] Hanoi VNA May 20 -- Soviet-Vietnamese summit talks and the whole process of Vietnam party leader Nguyen Van Linh's visit to the Soviet Union have once again affirmed the high level of the mutual trust and understanding between the leaders and the people of the Soviet Union and Vietnam, said a Soviet Foreign Ministry official.

Speaking at a press conference held in the Soviet capital yesterday on the Vietnamese party general secretary's official visit, B. Pyadyshv, first deputy head of the Information Department of the Soviet Foreign Ministry, pointed out that the two countries had an identity of views on the key international issues, including the situation in Asia and the Pacific.

As regards the Kampuchea issue, the two sides stressed that it could be and should be settled in the interests of the Kampuchean people while taking into account the realities already taken shape in the region, on the basis of the policy of national reconciliation.

Nguyen Van Linh Leaves

BK211631 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 21 May 87

[Text] An official farewell ceremony for Comrade Nguyen Van Linh, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam was held at the Georgiy Yevskiy Great Hall in the Kremlin on 21 May at the conclusion of his official friendly visit to the USSR.

Comrade Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee warmly hugged and said good-bye to Comrade Nguyen Van Linh. Comrade Ligachev, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, accompanied Comrade Nguyen Van Linh from the Kremlin to the airport.

The motorcade, accompanied by a motorcycle honor guard, brought Comrade Nguyen Van Linh from the Kremlin to the Vnukovo Airport. Both sides of the streets were bedecked with the national flags of the two countries and with slogans welcoming the visit by Comrade Nguyen Van Linh. The national flags of the two countries were also flying at the airport.

Seeing Comrade Nguyen Van Linh off at the airport on the Soviet side were Comrades Yeltsin, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Political Bureau and first secretary of the Moscow city party committee; Biryukova, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee; Orlov, member of the CPSU Central Committee and deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium; Gusev, member of the CPSU Central Committee and deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers; Kruchina, member of the CPSU Central Committee and head of the party Central Committee Financial Management Department; Kiyuyev, member of the CPSU Central Committee and minister of light industry; Chernomyrdin, member of the CPSU Central Committee and minister of gas industry; Kachin, member of the CPSU Central Committee and Soviet ambassador to the SRV; (Kamasarov), first deputy chief of the party Central Committee Foreign Affairs Department; and (Nensooki) deputy chief of the party Central Committee Foreign Affairs Department. LPDR and PRK ambassadors to the USSR Thongsavat Khaikhamphithoun and Nor Nam Hong respectively were also present. Comrade Nguyen Manh Cam, member of the CPV Central Committee and SRV ambassador to the USSR; many embassy officials; and representatives of Vietnamese students in the USSR were also present at the airport.

Comrades Nguyen Van Linh and Ligachev inspected the honor guard. After the playing of national anthems of the two countries, military units representing the three armed services paraded past Comrade Nguyen Van Linh. Soviet children presented a bouquet to Comrade Nguyen Van Linh and his entourage. Comrade Nguyen Van Linh warmly hugged Comrade Ligachev and the other comrades. All those who were present at the airport emotionally waved good-bye to Comrade Nguyen Van Linh and the comrades accompanying him.

On 21 May Comrade Nguyen Van Linh visited the museum, office, and home of Lenin at the Kremlin. Accompanying him on the Soviet side were Comrades Kachin, Smirnovskiy, Titov, and (Birorase) director and deputy director of the museum respectively who led Comrade Nguyen Van Linh to Lenin's office and home and briefed him on memories of the days when Lenin led the establishment and defence of Soviet sovereignty from the Kremlin.

Returns to Hanoi

BK221130 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 22 May 87

[Text] After successfully concluding their official friendship to the Soviet Union at the invitation of the CPSU Central Committee, Comrade Nguyen Van Linh, general secretary of the CPV Central Committee, and his entourage returned to Hanoi on 22 May. On hand to welcome Comrade General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh at the party Central Committee's Guesthouse were Comrades Truong Chinh, chairman of the Council of State; Pham Van Dong, chairman of the Council of Ministers; Nguyen Huu Tho, vice chairman of the Council of State and chairman of the National Assembly; Pham Hung, Vo Chi Cong, Vo Van Kiet, Le Duc Anh, Nguyen Duc Tam, and Mai Chi Tho, members of the party Central Committee Political Bureau; Dao Duy Tung, alternate member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau; Tran Kien, Tran Quoc Huong, and Pham The Duet, secretaries of the party Central Committee; Dinh Nho Liem, member of the party Central Committee and first vice minister of foreign affairs; Nguyen Quang Tao, deputy head of the party Central Committee's Foreign Relations Department; many other members of the party Central Committee and the Council of State; and representatives of various public organs and mass organisations at the central level and in Hanoi.

Also present were Comrade Mlakotnykh, Soviet charge d'affaires ad interim in our country, and many local and foreign newspaper, press service, and television correspondents.

NHAN DAN On Visit

BK220440 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 21 May 87

["Text" of 22 May NHAN DAN editorial: "The New Step of Qualitative Development of Vietnamese-Soviet Relations of Cooperation"]

[Text] The 17-22 May official friendship visit to the Soviet Union by Comrade Nguyen Van Linh, general secretary of our party Central Committee, proceeded and concluded in a very fine manner. The important results of the trip have brought about a great inspiration for our entire party and people. The extremely cordial and solemn reception given by the Soviet party, government, and people to Comrade Nguyen Van Linh and other members in his delegation; the talks between the two comrade general secretaries which took place in an atmosphere permeated with close fraternity and profound mutual trust; the documents made public on this occasion, the SRV-USSR joint statement and the agreements signed recently between the two sides; all these vivid symbols affirm that the visit was an important event of the traditional friendship and relations of all-round cooperation between Vietnam and the Soviet Union.

The Vietnamese Communists and people are extremely elated over the assessment noted in the SRV-USSR joint statement: The visit to the Soviet Union by Comrade Nguyen Van Linh, general secretary of the CPV Central Committee is a new eloquent manifestation of the unshakable Vietnamese-Soviet friendship. The talks in Moscow mark an important further step in improving the whole of relations between the CPV and the CPSU and between Vietnam and the Soviet Union, and promote the coordination of action between two countries in the international arena in the interests of peace and international security.

The immensely significant achievement of the visit is the fact that the talks and in-depth exchanges of views have confirmed the identity of views of our two parties on the pressing issues of socialist construction and international politics.

Comrade General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh expressed the admiration of the Vietnamese Communists and people for the Soviet Union's great contributions during the past 7 decades. He sincerely thanked the CPSU and the Soviet people for their strong support of, and their great and wholehearted assistance to, the revolutionary cause of Vietnam in the past as well as at present and confirmed that further strengthening close solidarity and all-round cooperation with the Soviet Union is always a cornerstone of the CPV's foreign policy and the sacred internationalist sentiments of each Vietnamese.

Comrade Nguyen Van Linh pointed out in particular the elation of the Vietnamese Communists and people over the profound revolutionary reforms effected in accordance with the line laid down by the 27th CPSU Congress and the January 1987 CPSU Central Committee Plenum, considering them as the embodiment of the creative force of Marxism-Leninism and a valuable experience which the fraternal parties can apply with due account to their own concrete conditions. The cause of reforms will certainly be successful and usher in a new, decisive stage of development of the Soviet Union, socialism, and world peace.

Comrade General Secretary Gorbachev highly appreciated and affirmed strong Soviet support for the creative and realistic renovation line set forth by the Sixth CPV Congress and wished the Vietnamese people successful implementation of the resolution of this congress.

While making every effort to overcome the towering, immediate difficulties to renovate the country's socioeconomic life in all respects, our people are boundlessly heartened to note the highly fraternal and comradely understanding on the part of the Soviet Union, tremendously moved by the heartfelt words uttered by Comrade Gorbachev: The Communists and the entire people of the Soviet Union can say with a clear conscience that they have always stood by the Vietnamese people's side and have done everything possible to help their just struggle. That was the case during the years of war and in the following period of national economic rehabilitation. That will remain the case also in the future.

The most striking feature of Comrade Nguyen Van Linh's successful visit to the Soviet Union is the clear-cut determination of the two sides to consolidate the relations of friendship and cooperation and to develop and broaden Vietnamese-Soviet cooperation in all respects.

Stressing the significance of the treaty of friendship and cooperation between the two countries in the new stage and taking into account the ever-larger scale of the Vietnamese-Soviet cooperation as well as the new methods advocated by the 27th CPSU Congress and the Sixth CPV Congress to deal with problems regarding socioeconomic development, the two sides are determined to broaden cooperation at varying levels and to improve the effectiveness of cooperation in the direction of achieving socialist economic integration, carrying out specialization and cooperativization in production, and adopting socialist trade principles in a more positive manner.

In the year to come, the Vietnamese-Soviet economic cooperation will be centered on the fields of tapping and processing farm produce, producing consumer goods, developing various sectors: electronic engineering, fertilizers, chemicals, mining industry, energy, and communications and transportation, and making full use of the existing production capabilities and labor sources in Vietnam.

The two sides will develop new forms of cooperation such as setting up joint amalgamations and enterprises to carry out labor contracts in return for the supply of products. Cooperation will be achieved at all the three levels: government, sectors, and production units.

The Soviet Union has also agreed to help our country devise a long-term economic development program and to pay attention to providing training to our cadres.

Thus, the highest-level Vietnamese-Soviet talks recently held in Moscow have upgraded the bilateral cooperation to a new level, both qualitatively and proportionally.

On the basis of renovating thinking and the cooperative mechanism, the bilateral cooperation has gone into an in-depth dimension, both extensive and ever-lasting, with a ever-higher efficiency beneficial to both sides in keeping with present-day demands.

This renovative cooperation will create favorable conditions for us to stabilize and develop production, carry out our three major economic programs, positively participate in the international division of labor in the direction of achieving specialization and cooperativization in production, thereby contributing to socialist economic integration and to the common cause of pragmatic socialism.

Comrades Nguyen Van Linh and Gorbachev affirmed the principled lines of the CPV and the CPSU which consist of continuing to consolidate the unanimity and unity in the socialist community, develop to the fullest the dynamism, positiveness, and creativity of each respective party and country, and better the socialist economic integration between member countries of the CEMA.

The exchange of views between the two comrade general secretaries over the international situation once again affirmed the identity of views between the two parties over urgent international issues and the two sides' determination to continue their cooperation in consolidating world peace and collective security and to support the struggle of nations for national independence and social progress.

Comrade Nguyen Van Linh has warmly hailed and fully supported important peace initiatives put forth by the Soviet Union, initiatives that have underscored the Soviet Union's Leninist peace policy. The role played by the Soviet Union is the nucleus and the driving force that accelerate the struggle to ease tension and dispel the danger of nuclear war and consolidate peace and security throughout the world.

Vietnam and the Soviet Union share the same views on evaluating the situation in the Asia-Pacific region. They also share the same idea of turning this region into a zone of peace, good-neighborliness, and cooperation.

Regarding the establishment of a peace and security system in Asia and the Pacific, as already outlined in a statement made by Comrade Gorbachev in Vladivostok in July last year, as far as the Southeast Asia situation is concerned, the two sides have stressed the need to ease tension in the region. The Soviet Union has affirmed that it will unwaveringly support the efforts of Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia to build the foundation of socialism, defend their respective national independence and sovereignty, and consolidate the fraternal alliance and the all-round cooperation between the three countries.

The Soviet Union supports the three countries' initiatives aimed at making healthy the political atmosphere in Southeast Asia and developing friendly relations with the ASEAN states and other countries in the region.

Vietnam and the Soviet Union support the PRK's policy of national reconciliation, stressing that the international affairs of Cambodia should be solved by the Cambodian people themselves and holding that the search for a solution to international aspects of the Cambodian issue through political means should take into account realities in the region with the participation in different forms of all parties concerned.

It is the desire of both Vietnam and the Soviet Union to normalize and improve relations with the PRC. China will be welcomed if it actively participates in seeking ways to resolve complicated problems in Asia. The Soviet Union supports Vietnam's proposal for conducting dialogue with China to find an early settlement to the present disputes.

All the high-level exchanges of views between Vietnam and the Soviet Union over the international situation have demonstrated the mutually thorough understanding and trust and the ever-closer cooperation between the two sides in their foreign policies in the interests of the two peoples as well as of the common cause of various nations.

The Communists and people of Vietnam heartily welcome the fine results of Comrade General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh's official friendship visit to the Soviet Union.

While we are enthusiastically preparing to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Great October Revolution and celebrating the birth anniversary of our highly esteemed President Ho Chi Minh, it is an extremely great joy for us to witness the further development of the loyal friendship and the all-round cooperation between Vietnam and the Soviet Union.

Comrade Nguyen Van Linh has noted: The results of this visit have marked the new qualitative development in the relations of friendship and all-round cooperation between our two parties and two countries.

Our Communists and people consider this event as a great source of encouragement and a strong support for us to overcome difficulties in implementing successfully all the tasks laid down by our Sixth CPV Congress.

In according with the spirit of the CPV Central Committee Political Bureau's 7 May 1987 directive all the echelons and sectors of the party and state, especially economic echelons and sector, and all mass organisations must quickly renovate their thinking and legal structure as well as their work style to honor fully all their commitments, agreements, and contracts, which have already been signed or will be signed with the Soviet Union, and to improve the effectiveness and the quality of the cooperation between Vietnam and the Soviet Union.

All of our people must demonstrate our iron-like loyalty to the policy of achieving close unity and all-round cooperation between Vietnam and the Soviet Union through realistic actions aimed at improving the effectiveness of these relations of cooperation.

CPSU Politburo Praises Visit

OW231540 Hanoi VNA in English 1450 GMT 23 May 87

[Text] Hanoi VNA May 23 — The Political Bureau of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union Central Committee acclaimed results of the talks between CPSU General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev and CPV General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh during the latter's official friendship visit to the Soviet Union from May 17-21.

At a regular meeting in Moscow Friday, the CPSU Political Bureau stressed that at their talks the CPSU and CPV leaders had paid special attention to the process of reconstruction and renewal now taking place in all aspects of life in the Soviet Union and Vietnam in the light of the resolutions of the 27th CPSU Congress and the 6th CPV Congress.

It noted that the agreement the two sides had reached on measures to be taken to increase the efficiency of the Soviet-Vietnamese all-round cooperation in new diverse forms was of great importance. It expressed satisfaction that the two party leaders were of identical views on bilateral relations and international issues of common concern.

The CPSU Political Bureau renewed the Soviet Union's firm resolve to closely coordinate with Vietnam in the struggle for peace, stability and good neighbourhood in Asia and the Pacific.

CPV Politburo Views Visit

BK251518 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 25 May 87

[Text] On 25 May the CPV Central Committee Political Bureau held a conference to hear Comrade General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh report on his official friendly visit to the USSR and the results of his talks with Comrade Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU.

In their group and private talks in Moscow, the two sides paid special attention to and highly appraised the process of renovation and reorganization being carried out in various domains of social life in Vietnam and the Soviet Union.

Comrade Nguyen Van Linh informed his Soviet counterpart of steps to implement guidelines set forth by the Sixth CPV Congress, pointed out favorable conditions and especially the great difficulties faced by the Vietnamese people, and emphasized our party's and people's determination to implement the new policies charted by the Sixth CPV Congress.

Comrade Gorbachev and other Soviet leaders expressed their unanimity with and total support for the correct lines of the Sixth CPV Congress and the resolution of the CPV Central Committee's second plenum, sixth term and hailed the CPV for its approach to issues relating to renovation and its formulation of measures, positions, and policies that are creative and practical. This is a very important factor that helps enhance the unanimity between the two parties and is a good basis for comprehensive Vietnamese-Soviet cooperation. On this basis, the two sides have reached consensus in measures to enhance the quality and effectiveness of Vietnamese-Soviet economic cooperation by shifting it to various new, progressive forms and methods symbolizing the spirit of profound renovation. The two sides have signed various economic cooperation agreements and reached consensus on other concrete forms of cooperation.

Comrade Nguyen Van Linh expressed the profound feelings of the CPV and the Vietnamese people toward the great contributions of the party, government, and people of the Soviet Union to the history of mankind as well as to the cause of national independence, democracy, peace, and socialism since the success of the Great October Revolution.

The talks affirmed the identity of views [suyj nhats tris quan diecmr] between the CPV and CPSU on pressing international issues and the determination of Vietnam and the Soviet Union to actively coordinate activities in consolidating world peace and security; struggle for peace, security, and good relations of cooperation in Asia and the Pacific on the basis of the joint efforts of all countries in the region; support the policy of national reconciliation of the PRK Government; and unite with various nations in their struggle for national independence and social progress.

Our party Central Committee Political Bureau unanimously endorsed all the activities of Comrade Nguyen Van Linh during his official friendship visit to the Soviet Union 17-22 May 1987. The Political Bureau expressed satisfaction at and highly appreciated the great results of the recent high-level Vietnam-USSR talks, which manifested the total identity of views between the CPV and CPSU on all issues of Vietnam-USSR relations of cooperation as well as on the international situation. It also expressed profound gratitude to Comrade General Secretary Gorbachev and other Soviet party and state leaders who, with a clear and noble sentiment of socialist internationalism, have wholeheartedly supported and vigorously assisted the Vietnamese revolution as well as the revolutions in the three Indochinese countries.

The Political Bureau affirmed that the official friendship visit to the Soviet Union by Comrade General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh has concluded with extremely fine success and is a political event of great significance, marking a qualitative new step in the development of Vietnam-USSR relations for the benefit of the socialist community and the sake of peace and security in the region and the world.

The results of Comrade Nguyen Van Linh's official friendship visit to the Soviet Union create favorable conditions for our people to implement the sixth party congress resolution and the resolution of the sixth party Central Committee's second plenum, thereby contributing actively to the building and defense of the socialist fatherland.

The Political Bureau pointed out the need to profoundly educate the entire party and people to further strengthen the close solidarity and all-round cooperation with the Soviet Union, considering this a cornerstone in our party's foreign policy and a sacred sentiment of every Vietnamese.

The Political Bureau requested that all echelons and sectors scrupulously review shortcomings in economic cooperation with the Soviet Union, change their ways of thinking and mechanism of management, renovate organizational and cadre-related work, and fully implement all commitments to the Soviet Union aimed at increasing the efficiency of Vietnam-USSR cooperation.

HANOI INTERVIEWS AUSTRALIAN MINISTER ON TIES

BK241606 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0015 GWT 11 May 87

[Unidentified radio correspondent's interview with T. Uren, Australian minister of local government and administrative services; date not given -- recording in English fading into Vietnamese translation]

[Summary] [Correspondent] "Would you please let us know about the solidarity and cooperation that the Australian people and the Australia-Vietnam Friendship Association have reserved for the Vietnamese people?"

[Uren] "First of all, we would like to tell you about the relations with the Vietnamese people. Some of us were involved in the struggle for independence and freedom of your people. As you already know, under the leadership of Prime Minister Menzies, the Australian Conservative government sent advisers to South Vietnam in May 1962 to help the Saigon puppet administration." In Australia, we organized meetings in various villages and cities, and step by step we were able to initiate the peoples movement against the war in Vietnam.

In October 1972, under the leadership of Prime Minister Whitlam, our government began to withdraw all Australian military forces from Vietnam and then established diplomatic relations with your country. This was followed by the founding of the Australia-Vietnam Friendship Association by a mass organization. I have taken part in all activities of the association and served as its chairman for the past 12 years.

"To continue the relations of the Australia-Vietnam Friendship Association in various fields, we have been sent to Vietnam. This is my second visit to your country. My first visit was in 1978 when I and some other Australians were sent here to seek an understanding of your national reconstruction in order to help your people step up reafforestation and arrange for your experts to learn English in Australia with the aim of breaking the language barrier in the relations between the two countries.

"We are also helping your people restore various hospitals so that they can operate more effectively. With the agreement of your government, we can even work for what we used to call the development of solidarity between the peoples of our two countries."

[Correspondent] "Would you please tell us about the peace movement in Australia to oppose nuclear arms and nuclear war and to turn the Southwest Pacific into a nuclear-free zone."

[Turen] "For many years now, there has been a very strong people's movement in Australia against nuclear arms and nuclear war. This movement grows mainly from young people, from women, and even the churches. One extraordinary phenomenon in Australia is that people usually take to the streets to express their views." In the past, there was a strong mass movement in Australia against the involvement of U.S. and Australian troops in the Vietnam war. Today, more and more people are participating in the struggle against nuclear arms.

Australia, New Zealand, and other countries in the southwest Pacific have prohibited the setting up of nuclear arms depots in this region. Our struggle for a nuclear-free zone has won support from many countries in Africa, Southwest Asia, and the southwest Pacific. We have often expressed concern over continued nuclear tests in the Pacific by the French Government.

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS ISSUES INFORMATION DECREE

BK260957 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 25 May 87

[Text] The Council of Ministers recently issued a decree defining the functions, duties, and authorities concerning apparatus organization of the Ministry of Information, the Voice of Vietnam, and the Vietnam Television Station.

Regarding the function, duties, and authorities of the Ministry of Information, the decree points out:

The Ministry of Information is an organ of the Council of Ministers that is responsible for assuming uniform state management over the newspaper, press agency, radio, television, publication, printing, and other information-propagating branches. The Ministry of Information has the main duties and authorities as follows:

1. Formulate long-term plans and programs for building and developing the sector and short-term and annual programs for service, production, and business units directly subordinate to the ministry.
2. Compile state laws on all activities of the press, radio, television, publication, printing, and other information-propagating branches for submission to the National Assembly and the various related systems and policies for approval and promulgation by the Council of Ministers.
3. Grant permission and issue operational permits to press, radio, television, publication, printing, and other information-propagating organs in accordance with the party's lines and policies and the state law; supervise the implementation of party policies and the state law on information; and suspend the operations or revoke the operational permit of these organs if their activities are deemed to be at variance with party policies and the state law.
4. Formulate plans for providing supplies, techniques, and capital for units of the sector in accordance with the general systems of the state and the council of Ministers regulations.
5. Pay salaries as entrusted by the National Assembly, the Council of State, and the Council of Ministers.

6. Establish external relations and international cooperation in the field of information work.

Regarding the function and duties of the Voice of Vietnam, the decree specifies:

The Voice of Vietnam is a national radio station whose function is to relay information and propagate the lines and policies of the CPV and the SRV state. The Voice of Vietnam has the main duties and authorities as follows:

1. Propagate the domestic and foreign lines and policies of the party and state, motivate the people to translate party and state lines into revolutionary actions of the masses, enhance friendship with peoples of other countries in the world, and improve listeners' knowledge of culture, science, and technology.
2. Formulate long-term and annual plans for the Voice of Vietnam and organize the implementation of such plans after they are approved by the Council of Ministers.
3. Establish cooperative relations with foreign radio stations based on party lines and the state law.
4. Train and foster the contingent of cadres and workers in press and radio technology.
5. The radio station is entitled to the same status as established for other state organs subordinate to the Council of Ministers, is promptly and fully informed of the various decisions adopted by the Council of Ministers, and is invited to attend Council of Ministers meetings as deemed necessary.

Regarding the function and duties of the Vietnam Television Station, the decree points out:

The Vietnam Television Station is a national television station whose function is to relay information and propagate the lines and policies of the CPV and the SRV state. The Vietnam Television Station has the main duties and authorities as follows:

1. Propagate the domestic and foreign lines and policies of the party and state, motivate the people to translate party and state lines into revolutionary actions of the masses, enhance friendship with peoples of other countries in the world, and improve television viewers' knowledge of culture, science, and technology.
2. Formulate long-term and annual plans for the Vietnam Television Station and organize the implementation of such plans after they are approved by the Council of Ministers.
3. Establish cooperative relations with foreign television stations based on party lines and the state law.
4. Train and foster the contingent of cadres and workers in press and television technology.
5. The television station is entitled to the same status as established for other state organs subordinate to the Council of Ministers, is promptly and fully informed of the various decisions adopted by the Council of Ministers, and is invited to attend Council of Ministers meetings as deemed necessary.

FijiRABUKA ASKED TO REFRAIN FROM COMMENT ON ELECTION

BK270920 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0803 GMT 27 May 87

[From the "International Report" program]

[Excerpt] Fiji's governor general has told the leader of the country's military coup, Lieutenant Colonel Rabuka, to refrain from commenting on when the next election might be held. This follows a prediction by the colonel that the next election might be 16 months away. At the same time, the former prime minister of Fiji, Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara, says he will not take part in changing the country's constitution. Reporter Stephen Shaw is speaking with our correspondent in Fiji, Graeme Dobell.

[Begin recording] [Dobell] The statement coming from Government House is that Col Rabuka was expressing his personal views and not those of Her Majesty's Government in stating that an election could be at least 16 months away. The spokesman for the governor general said that Ratu Sir Penaia had spoken to Col Rabuka after reading reports of these comments by the coup leader and suggested to him that he refrain from talking to the media on such matters in the interest of maintaining calm.

[Shaw] What was the reason for the colonel speaking out?

[Dobell] Well, the colonel was interviewed and he was questioned about the changes to the Constitution and the time scale involved there. The governor general and his comments on national radio last Friday had suggested that an election should take place within 16 months. But Col Rabuka was saying that he thought the process of reviewing and changing the Constitution might take much longer than that, and in fact, the statement from Government House today hedged a little bit on the same issue saying that it was too early to commit Her Majesty's Government to an exact time frame for the next general election. But Col Rabuka was saying that they had to look at the way that Fijian democracy could be changed to take account of the social framework and to account particularly of the need to protect Fijian land.

[Shaw] Is this sort of an indication of some sort of a power play between the two men?

[Dobell] It is a clear indication that the power struggle — as you wished to use that phrase — has moved to the constitutional legal stage; that it is now a matter of how they go about changing the Constitution, to what extent Indians in Fiji are to be disenfranchised and how far you would go to protect the rights of Fijians so that Fijians may govern their own land — to use a phrase that is being bandied around a little. And, it is very much a matter of debate about what the Constitution should do and also about the legality of changing the Constitution, how you actually go about doing that, and that is very much (a point) in contention.

Rabuka Cited

BK271025 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 1000 GMT 27 May 87

[Excerpts] Fiji's Governor General Ratu Sir Penaia Ganilau has rejected comments by the military leader, Lieutenant Colonel Rabuka, that an election could be 16 months away. A spokesman for the governor general said Ratu Sir Penaia had told Col Rabuka to refrain from talking on such matters in the interest of maintaining calm. [passage omitted]

Col Rabuka said in an interview released today by the Ministry for Information that changes to the Constitution did not have to go through the Fijian Parliament. He said the governor general could forward amendments for approval by the Queen. If the Queen rejected the changes, he said, some in the Council of Chiefs were prepared to declare the country a republic.

NEW ZEALAND

NEW ZEALAND PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION IN PRC

For PRC media coverage of the visit of Gerald Aloysius Wall to the People's Republic of China, see the Southeast Asia & Pacific section of the 28 May China DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

VANUATU

AUSTRALIAN, NEW ZEALAND POLICIES SEEN AS 'THREAT'

BK280601 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0430 GMT 28 May 87

[Text] Vanuatu's prime minister, Father Lini, is reported to have claimed that the policies of Australia and New Zealand pose a grave threat to regional security in the South Pacific. He also listed French colonialism as a major threat.

Father Lini told AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATED PRESS in Vila that the attitude of Canberra and Wellington to regional security was biased toward continued of maintenance of Western influences and interests. Speaking on the eve of the departure of Vanuatu's delegation to the South Pacific Forum, the prime minister said both countries had what he called reactionary forces which could invade any South Pacific nation at any time. In contrast, Libya was no threat because it had no such force in the area. He added that unless island states were able to adequately overcome their economic problems, then the security of the region would continue to be undermined. Father Lini described the SPARTECA [South Pacific Regional Trade and Economic Cooperation Agreement] Agreement under which island states exports duty free goods to Australia and New Zealand as nothing more than a paper exercise.

LINI WARNS PARLIAMENT ON NEW CALEDONIA FUTURE

BK270930 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0700 GMT 27 May 87

[Text] Vanuatu's prime minister, Father Walter Lini, has warned that the current situation in Fiji could be repeated in New Caledonia unless the French Government took into account the views of the territory's indigenous Kanak population. Speaking in Parliament in Port Vila, Father Lini said the interests of the Kanaks must be given paramount importance in any constitutional development and power sharing arrangement in New Caledonia. He said it was natural for the Kanaks to continue to demand rights and powers within the democratically established constitution for New Caledonia. The Vanuatu prime minister said his government was concerned that the French Government continued to disregard regional and international opinions about the political future of New Caledonia.

Father Lini said Vanuatu rejected and denounced the planned French referendum in New Caledonia and what he called the militarization of the territory. He called on Paris to recognize the legitimate rights and aspirations of the Kanaks.

1 KILLED BY TROOPS IN DEMONSTRATION IN ACEH

BK230839 Hong Kong AFP in English 0825 GMT 23 May 87

[Text] Jakarta, May 23 (AFP) — One of three men shot and injured by troops during a demonstration in the staunchly Moslem province of Aceh in Sumatera nine days ago has died of his injuries, official sources said Saturday.

The sources confirmed reports that the man had died in hospital on May 16 and said the two other men were still hospitalized.

The three were injured after they raised a Moslem flag over a mosque in the western coastal town of Meulaboh during a demonstration on May 14.

Last week official sources said an obscure outlawed Islamic sect, the Bantaqiyah, was behind the demonstration, which was broken up by troops.

A similar street demonstration was staged a day later in the eastern district of Sigli. Twenty-three people were detained, but only four remained in custody Saturday.

The others were released on the provision that they report regularly to local security offices, the sources said.

Official sources denied last week that either demonstration was linked to the separatist Free Aceh Movement or to the first election victory by the ruling Golkar Party in Aceh last month.

Aceh fell to Golkar in a close race with the Moslem United Development Party (PPP) which had won every election to date in the province before the April polls.

However, sources close to the military said Saturday the outlawed Bantaqiyah group, an obscure sect which existed in the 1970's but was later banned by the government, could be a front for the almost defunct Free Aceh Movement.

The Sigli demonstrators, who wore long white robes and carried home-made spears, said they were not PPP members.

Police said their main intent seemed to be to persuade foodstall hawkers to remain closed during the Moslem fasting month.

Military Reports on Protests

BK261553 Jakarta BERITA BUANA in Indonesian 22 May 87 pp 1, 7

[Text] Jakarta — General L.B. Murdani, Armed Forces Commander and commander of the Security and Order Restoration Operational Command, has labelled a band of white-robed and turbaned persons who held parades in Aceh Province recently as "people who have nothing else to do."

Murdani was answering questions from newsmen at Bina Graha on Thursday morning. Earlier, he called on President Suharto not to report on the case of these white-robed people but to brief the president on the national security situation which is generally stable.

The white-robed band was interrogated but not arrested. They have been advised not to repeat their action. He added the authorities are looking for the leader of this band. He said the leader lives far away and his place can only be reached on foot. However, Murdani declined to comment whether or not the background of this band is political.

The white-robed band emerged in Pidie District, Aceh, recently. However, the local military district command succeeded in curbing its activities. Members of this band claim to belong a certain Islamic sect.

Meanwhile, the Aceh chapter of the Indonesian Ulemas Council has announced that they are people who have received erroneous religious teaching. These people are renegade Muslims.

Asked on whether Libya is training terrorists in Irian Jaya, Murdani, like Foreign Minister Mokhtar Kusumaatmaja, said that we should not quickly believe in such reports. "We must check first whether it is true or not," Murdani said.

On the death of four students of Jakarta's Trisakti University while on a mountaineering expedition to Jayawijaya Mountains, the Armed Forces commander said: "I think they might have been murdered." He added the four students did not report to the Cendrawasih Military Region Command on their planned expedition. As they went their own way, we can not be blamed for anything that happened.

"So, who killed them, Sir?" asked a newsman. "The OPM [Free Papua Movement]"

"Don't say such things," Murdani said. "There are no OPM members there. Don't accuse the OPM. Our country is safe."

The Armed Forces commander asked us not to younger generation to follow procedures in achieving prestige.

MALAYSIAMAGAZINE RETRACTS REPORT ON LAND SALE TO BRUNEI

HK271350 Hong Kong AFP in English 1312 GMT 27 May 87

[Text] Hong Kong, May 27 (AFP) -- A regional magazine Wednesday retracted its report that Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad had discussed selling a piece of Malaysian territory to neighboring Brunei.

The Hong Kong-based FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW apologised for the report and said it "unreservedly and completely accepts" denials by the Malaysian Government and Mr Mahathir that he ever discussed such a sale.

The magazine said in its issue to be published Thursday that it "retracts its report and offers its sincere apologies for any embarrassment the item may have caused the prime minister." The report, carried in the May 21 issue, said Mr Mahathir had discussed during a trip to the oil-rich Sultanate of Brunei a proposal to sell it "a sizable area of jungle" in East Malaysia's Sarawak state for about six billion U.S. dollars. The area, Limbang, divides Brunei in two.

The report caused was strongly denied by the Malaysian Government and pro-government political groups. Mr Mahathir's press secretary said the story was "absolutely false" and threatened to take unspecified action against the REVIEW.

The leader of the youth wing of Mr Mahathir's party, the United Malays National Organisation (UMNO), called on the government to consider suing the magazine and banning its circulation in retaliation.

In apologising, the REVIEW said the report had been "published in good faith from sources which in the past have proved to be both well-informed and reliable." It added, however, that "the REVIEW cannot accept allegations made by certain parties that the publication of such an item was in any way motivated by maliciousness or that it was intended in any way to be defamatory."

BRIEFS

CHOLERA FIGURES NATIONWIDE -- Nine more cases of cholera were reported in three states on 22 May bringing to 209 the number throughout the country since the recent outbreak of the disease. The deputy director general of health, Datuk Abdullah Abdul Rahman, said six cases were detected in Kelantan, two in Perlis, and one in Kedah. So far, a total number of 120 cases have been reported in Kelantan, 63 in Kedah, 17 in Perlis, and 9 in Terengganu. [Text] [Kuala Lumpur Domestic Service in English 1130 GMT 22 May 87 BK]

SINGAPOREDEPUTY PREMIER GOH CHOK TONG VISITS PRC

For PRC media coverage of the visit of Goh Chok Tong to the People's Republic of China, see the Southeast Asia & Pacific section of the 28 May China DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

PRESIDENT AQUINO MEETS WITH PAMPANGA FARMERS**HK280227 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in English 2300 GMT 27 May 87**

[Text] Pampanga farmers yesterday [27 May] met with President Aquino. Art Pabellon reports:

[Begin recording] President Corason Aquino yesterday met with about 100 farmers of the Ugnayan ng Magsasaka ng San Simon [Farmers' Union of San Simon] in Pampanga. The 2-hour dialogue was described by Press Secretary Teodoro Benigno as freewheeling. The farmers emphasized [words indistinct] of the ugnayan's progress. They were taught lessons in proper irrigation, pest control, and proper use of pesticides and other aspects of the farming process. But the most important aspect of the process [word indistinct] was the indication of (?the soil). On land reform, the farmers said they would probably work more and produce more if the land they tilled should belong to them.

The Ugnayan ng Magsasaka ng San Simon boasts of a dramatic increase in the rice harvest from 40 to 130 cavans per hectare. They also had a 100 percent containment of agricultural (?loss).

Commenting on the friendly encounter, the president said that the dialogue was heart-warming and educational. "I learned a lot of things," she said. She added that she was glad to hear the farmers say that the people have to reform themselves first before they could reform the nation. Mrs Aquino said that she hopes that the trail blazed by the Ugnayan ng Magsasaka ng San Simon would spread to the rest of the country. [end recording]

AQUINO TELLS TROOPS 'ACCEPT PEOPLE'S WILL'**HK271003 Hong Kong AFP in English 0958 GMT 27 May 87**

[Text] Manila, May 27 (AFP) — President Corason Aquino told soldiers in a surprise visit to a military base Wednesday they must accept the results of May congressional polls and steer clear of politics, her spokesman said. Press Secretary Teodoro Benigno said Mrs Aquino made the remarks in a talk with officers and men of Camp Olivas, the regional military headquarters of Central Luzon that has been a focus of military dissatisfaction with her government. Mrs Aquino had decided to visit the camp by helicopter "at the eleventh hour" after talking with farmers in a nearby town, he said. "The people have spoken and we must all accept the people's will," Mr Benigno quoted Mrs Aquino as telling a hall of officers and enlisted men during a 20-minute visit to the camp in her home region.

"She said that the government supports the military and wants to work hand in hand with them, and at the same time (she) recalled the constitutional provision governing military conduct, which is not to engage in any political activity except to vote," he said.

The visit came two days after riot police broke up a right-wing opposition rally at Armed Forces Headquarters in Manila meant to stir military opposition to the government over alleged election fraud. Mr Benigno said Camp Olivas commander Brigadier General Eugenio Ocampo had candidly recalled that 300 officers and men from the camp joined a coup attempt in the capital last July and that 60 took part in a similar effort in January. He quoted the general as saying that now all officers and men of the camp "will be behind you all the time."

"We shall see to it that anyone who disagrees will have to seek employment elsewhere," the commander was quoted as saying.

Former Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile, a Senate candidate still unsure of victory, has called on soldiers nationwide to support the opposition's campaign against alleged fraud. But no officers openly came to his support in last weekend's rally near military camps here.

PRESIDENT TO MEET MINDANAOANS OVER DEMANDS

HK271353 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog 1230 GMT 27 May 87

[Text] Western Mindanao officials are slated to meet with President Corason Aquino tomorrow in order to discuss the MNLF demands for full autonomy in Mindanao. According to Elnorita Tugong of the Regional Executive Council, among the topics to be discussed is the socio-economic development of regions under MNLF control. Western Mindanao is composed of Sulu, Basilan, Tawi-Tawi, Zamboanga del Norte and Zamboanga del Sur.

Meanwhile, in related developments, the Sultan of Lanao, the Sultan [name indistinct] has called on the MNLF to exercise moderation in its threat to renew hostilities at the end of the Ramadan period. [passage indistinct]

ESTRADA ACCUSES COLLEAGUES OF MISHANDLING FUNDS

HK270927 Queson City MALAYA in English 27 May 87 pp 1, 2

By Larry Sipin and Bejie Gueverra]

[Text] Winning opposition senatorial candidate Joseph Estrada, who called on President Aquino Monday to pledge cooperation with her government, has accused opposition colleagues Juan Ponce Enrile and Vicente Puyat of mishandling campaign funds that led to the crushing defeat of the Grand Alliance for Democracy [GAD] at the May 11 legislative polls.

The popular movie actor, one of only two possible survivors of the Lakas ng Bayan [Laban-People's Power] landslide in the senatorial race, is set to leave for an undisclosed place abroad to escape possible "persecution" from his right-wing supporters after meeting with Mrs Aquino at the Antique House of the Palace.

Estrada Monday informed the President of his intention to leave to allow things to "cool off." Mrs Aquino herself requested MALAYA, which had exclusive coverage of the meeting, to keep the story on hold so that nothing may be left to chance concerning Estrada's safety.

Estrada, however, gave the go-signal for the report to be filed, saying "I have nothing to hide, so there is no harm in making this public."

In blaming Enrile for the opposition debacle at the polls, Estrada said: "Our understanding was that Enrile and Puyat would organize and fund the GAD campaign... They did not. Instead, we were left on our own, with no organization to speak of, even without poll watchers."

He made the statement to MALAYA Monday night immediately after his 45-minute meeting with the President.

He also disclosed that Enrile has been "very cold" to him since he (Estrada) emerged as the top opposition vote-getter. He also said the former defense minister junked him in the polls but did not elaborate.

Those developments followed Estrada's apparent change of heart yesterday, denying to newsmen that he had forged an agreement of cooperation with the President on matters that serve national interest.

Saying that the MALAYA exclusive story was "misleading," Estrada told newsmen that he merely called on the President to personally convey the opposition grievances and suggestions to ease post-election tensions and unrest.

He said he would sit in the Senate to fight for the opposition but would step down once the Supreme Court ruled in favor of GAD's petition to nullify the poll results because of alleged massive fraud and cheating.

(MALAYA stands by its story.)

In his meeting with President Aquino, Estrada pledged cooperation on matters "for the good of the greatest number." He told Mrs Aquino: "I will not be an obstacle to your government."

In turn, Mrs Aquino said "I like the fact that you like to cooperate...I really cannot see why we cannot work together."

Estrada made the same pledge in a meeting last Friday with Press Secretary Teodoro Benigno at the Makati office of businessman Carlos "Honey Boy" Palanca III.

"I am one oppositionist who will not obstruct the government," he told Benigno.

Estrada also revealed his plan to go abroad in his meeting with Benigno. He expressed fears that he might be branded as a "traitor" so he planned to "leave for a while."

Estrada said there have been no threats made against him although admitting he has been "hearing a lot of things." He said he was bothered by a statement made by former Postmaster General Rollo Coles, one of his teammates in the GAD ticket, that any one from the GAD who sits at the Senate will be "taken care" of by Abul Khayir Alonto, another GAD candidate. Alonto is a former Moro National Liberation Front field general.

Estrada told MALAYA even before his meeting with the President his teammates had been eyeing him with distrust because he has not been joining their protest rallies.

"I received calls two or three times a day and they would ask me if I had deserted them," he said.

Estrada, who is in number 14 of the official Comelec canvass, expressed apprehension that his meeting with the President might be construed by his GAD teammates, particularly Enrile, as an act inimical to the alliance.

"People, especially those poor people attending the rallies are getting hurt and I would want that to stop, so, I went to the President to see if there is a way we can stop all these," he said.

Despite his difference with Enrile, Estrada said he would maintain his status as an independent.

"I have been an independent all throughout my political life; I have never joined any party and I do not intend to join one now," he said.

He also said he does not owe his victory to Enrile and so he is not obligated in any manner to support his actions.

Estrada Denies Accusing Others

HK271345 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog 1300 GWT 27 May 87

[Text] Winning opposition senatorial candidate Joseph Estrada denied reports that he was charging Mr Juan Ponce Enrile and Vicente Puyat of mishandling of the opposition's campaign funds. Estrada was reacting to newspaper accounts which reported he was blaming Enrile and Puyat for the opposition's losses allegedly due to mishandling of party funds.

[Begin Estrada recording] There is no truth to that report. It has no basis. First of all, the Grand Alliance Party had no funds. [passage indistinct] third, I can never say those things about Mr Enrile because I actually have great respect for him and for Mr Teng Puyat. So, all those things written in MALAYA are baseless and false. [end recording].

FOREIGN MINISTRY CANCELS NDF SPOKESMAN'S PASSPORT

HK271211 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog 1200 GWT 27 May 87

[Text] The Department of Foreign Affairs [DFA] has cancelled the Philippine passport of National Democratic Front Spokesman Luis Jalandoni. Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Jose Ingbes ordered the confiscation and cancellation of Jalandoni's passport after the latter allegedly acquired Dutch citizenship. Jalandoni is currently in the Netherlands.

Ingbes added that the DFA will continue to monitor Jalandoni's activities outside the country where he is reportedly soliciting support and funds for the National Democratic Front.

GAD QUIET ON SUPREME COURT DISMISSAL OF PETITION

HK280211 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in English 2300 GWT 27 May 87

[Text] There is no reaction yet from the Grand Alliance for Democracy [GAD] about the Supreme Court's decision dismissing its petition against the May 11th senatorial election. However, sources said GAD leaders may meet shortly to deliberate on a future course of action regarding their defeat in the Supreme Court and the elections. The Supreme Court dismissed the GAD petition for lack of merit. GAD petitioned that the Comelec [Commission on Elections] be stopped in its canvassing of the results of the May 11 election. In its petition, GAD claimed the elections were marred by massive fraud and irregularities.

LEAFLETS CRITICIZE RAMOS 'PARTISANSHIP'

NK240813 Quezon City MALAYA in English 23 May 87 pp 1, 6

[Text] Right-wing oppositionists yesterday circulated leaflets accusing Gen Fidel Ramos, Armed Forces chief, of partisanship in a move to draw more support for a new coup d'etat from the 250,000-strong military.

Circulation of the leaflet -- a reproduction of an election poster showing Ramos and his sister, now senator-elect, Leticia Shahani -- was aimed at destroying the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] chief's credibility and justifying the military's participation in partisan politics.

The leaflets were clandestinely distributed in various military camps shortly after Gen Ramos addressed the AFP Judge Advocate service at Camp Aguinaldo.

In his speech, Ramos said the military "must refrain from joining purely partisan political activity."

In the same address, he also stressed that "the EDSA [Epifanio de Los Santos] Revolution can no longer be duplicated as so much components present last February 1986 are already missing."

The leaflets being distributed had a handwritten caption which read: "It is unconstitutional for any member of the military to engage directly or indirectly in any partisan politician activity. Eh, bakit siya." [so why is he] On the reverse side of the leaflet is a directive signed by Ramos which cites the constitutional provision banning all military men from actively joining partisan political activities.

A highly-placed military source told MALAYA that soldiers are being recruited not only for participation in more mass actions in the future but also for a planned takeover of Camps Aguinaldo and Crame, in what he described as a bid to stage another revolution and topple the Aquino government.

"What the rightists are planning is an improvement over the EDSA Part 2 which fizzled out for lack of attendance last week. This time, they even want to take over the two camps and kidnap or even assassinate ranking military officials, including Gen Ramos," the source laid.

Capital Regional Command chief Brig Gen Alexander Aquirre, meanwhile, said he has received unverified intelligence reports which say that another coup may be in the offing.

He, however, said that his command is ready to forestall any takeover attempt, saying his forces have been placed on "red alert."

Aquirre said reports have it that the takeover will be participated in by disgruntled elements in the military who are on absence without leave (AWOL) or former enlisted men. He added they are backed by "civilians." He did not elaborate.

Aquirre said the military intelligence community has a list of all the possible leaders of the plot. But he declined to declassify the list.

Saying that another revolution is next to impossible, Ramos said the conditions prevailing in 1986 are different from the present one.

"The main component of that revolution (in Feb. 1986) -- the massive voluntary outpouring of people's power -- is no longer present, and instead an atmosphere of recriminations, and hatred has taken over," Ramos said.

ECONOMIC SECRETARY PROPOSES DEBT RATIO CHANGE

HK261259 Quezon City BUSINESS DAY in English 26 May 87 p 2

[Text] Inputs in the computation of the debt service ratio or the indicator measuring the country's ability to pay loans as well as its ability to borrow, may soon be changed to accurately reflect the country's financial status and capacity to pay.

The Philippine's huge annual debt service burden has prompted the government agency to restudy the definition of legislation on the allowable annual amount that the country can set aside to repay its foreign debt.

Republic Act [RA] 4860, otherwise known as the Foreign Borrowing Act of 1966, sets the debt service ratio at 20 percent of total foreign exchange earnings of the immediately preceding year.

A memorandum from Economic Planning Secretary Solita C. Monsod to members of the Monetary Board (MB) indicates that the Central Bank [CB] has been "window dressing" the debt service ratio so it would not exceed the statutory limit.

Since 1976, the memorandum said, the Central Bank's definition of foreign exchange receipts or the total foreign exchange earnings has included not only current account receipts but also proceeds from foreign loans and other capital inflows in the determination of the debt service ratio.

"We believe that the Central Bank's definition of foreign exchange receipts...runs counter to the objectives of the law," Monsod said in the memorandum, because "the true reason of the country's ability to pay is her internal capacity to generate foreign exchange not her ability to borrow from abroad; a country cannot continuously borrow from abroad if her own capacity for earning foreign exchange is impaired or does not improve."

Monsod argued that the inclusion of foreign loan proceeds in foreign exchange receipts understates the debt burden because the measure of the ability to pay is made to partly depend on the ability from abroad.

The use of the CB definition of foreign exchange receipts precludes the debt service ratio's utility as an early warning indicator, Monsod said.

"Debt service ratios based on CB definition may be below 20 percent," Monsod said, "but they could be running as high as 30 percent when based on more internationally accepted measures."

The National Economic and Development Authority, which Monsod heads, has formally recommended to the national government that in computing the debt service ratio foreign exchange receipts should be transferred to current account receipts where it was originally entered when Congress passed Republic Act 4860.

RA 4860 provides: "The CB shall promulgate and enforce such measures as shall be necessary to reduce the external debt service requirements to an annual level not exceeding 20 percent of the average of the foreign exchange receipts of the immediately preceeding year."

In the first amendment enforced in November 1970, the base by which the payments would be divided was made "the average of the foreign exchange receipts of the immediately preceding three years, as certified by the CB; provided that the existing debt service ratios in excess of this ceiling shall not be considered violative of this Act; provided, further, that such ratios shall not be increased beyond their existing levels."

After two more amendments, the latter part of the law, which defines the foreign exchange receipts with which the repayments are compared, expanded the definition further.

The latest amendment, in June 1984, stated that the statutory limit would remain at 20 percent of foreign exchange receipts provided that "whenever necessary in connection with general rescheduling, restructuring or refinancing of the external debt of the Philippines by foreign creditors, the President of the Philippines, upon the recommendation of the Monetary Board of the Central Bank of the Philippines, may exclude specific categories of external debt from such a ceiling."

ONGPIN SAYS DEBT SERVICE CEILING NEEDS INCREASE

HK271153 Quezon City BUSINESS DAY in English 27 May 87 p 2

[Text] The Congress will have to raise the statutory limit on foreign debt service, currently 20 percent of the past year's total foreign exchange inflow, because the ratio of 22 percent to 29 percent is expected for the next five years, Finance Secretary Jaime V. Ongpin said yesterday.

He said amendments in the past hid real values and allowed debt service payments to keep within the limits -- and permitted the previous administration to borrow more. The Congress will have to adjust the ceiling to "recognize the realities," he said.

Last Monday newsmen were given a memorandum, signed by Economic Planning Secretary Solita C. Monsod, recommending to the Monetary Board redefinition of terms in the computation of the debt service ratio because the former administration lowered values by expanding definitions.

Monsod said the inclusion of foreign loan proceeds in the foreign exchange receipts account has understated that debt burden because the ability to pay is made to [be] partly dependent on the ability to borrow from abroad.

Ongpin aid, former Central Bank Governor Jaime C. Laya, during the latter years of his chairmanship of the Monetary Board, had "started fiddling with the formula" such that the debt service burden during those years became unrealistic.

'WIDESPREAD' LAND-GRABBING REPORTED IN ZAMBALES

HK271127 Queson City BUSINESS DAY in English 27 May 87 p 23

[Text] San Fernando, Pampanga — Widespread grabbing of ancestral lands affecting thousands of Aeta and Negrito families in northwestern Zambales has been brought to the attention of government authorities for appropriate action.

Priscillano H. Lopus, regional director of the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) expressed fear that landgrabbing in the towns of Cabangan, San Marcelino and Botolan might erupt into bloody confrontations unless immediate solutions are undertaken.

Cases of land-grabbing in the three towns were brought to the attention of Lopus last week by delegations of Aeta and Negrito families who threatened that they would take the law into their hands if the government did not take action.

Lopus immediately conferred with the regional authorities of the Bureau of Lands and the Bureau of Forest Development on the complaints.

Acting DAR Secretary Jose C. Medina Jr., has instructed Lopus to provide all available facilities and personnel of his office to assist in solving the problem.

Reports showed that about 125 Aeta and Negrito families in Barangay Buag, San Marcelino, Zambales were being driven out from their ancestral lands comprising about 600 hectares by influential landowners.

Aeta and Negrito residents in San Marcelino complained that one landowner managed to secure a pasture lease from the Bureau of Lands for a vast area in the town.

Lopus gathered that the land covered by the lease agreement has been cleared, developed and planted to fruit-bearing trees by Aeta and Negrito villagers as early as 1901.

Some influential landowners became interested in acquiring the lands in San Marcelino after the government announced that it would construct soon an upland access road through Barangay Buag which will link it to Botolan Town.

Victor Villa, Aeta chieftain in Buag, said that he had organized local male residents to fight off any land-grabber venturing into their ancestral land.

Another case of land-grabbing was reported to Lopus by more than 1,000 families of Aetas and Negritos in Botolan.

Lopus gathered that at least three influential Metro-Manila residents managed to acquire pasture lease agreements from the Bureau of Lands for areas being occupied by cultural communities for several years now.

LABAN SCHISM OVER LAND REFORM ISSUE REPORTED

HK261405 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 26 May 87 pp 1, 11

[By Marlen Bonquillo and Tony Bergonia]

[Text] A schism is developing in the ruling Lakas ng Bayan (Laban) [People's Power] coalition over President Aquino's decision to preempt Congress on the promulgation of an early law for sweeping land reform.

The House, where Laban has the majority, is split into one bloc unconditionally behind an early law on land reform and another bloc vigorously opposed to the issuance of such a edict by the Palace.

At the Kapihan sa Maynila [Manila Coffeeshop] breakfast forum yesterday, candidates for House speaker -- Raul Daza of Northern Samar, Ramon Mitra of Palawan, and Jose Yap of Tarlac -- said they support unconditionally a presidential executive order on land reform.

The Bishop's Businessmen's Conference (BBC), meanwhile, urged the President to push through with her administration's Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) and issue an executive order that would turn CARP into law.

In a press statement, the BBC said that it is "the people's mandate as provided for in the Constitution" that the President issue the decree.

At yesterday's press forum, Hernando Perez of Batangas, another candidate for speaker, asked Ms Aquino to stop promulgating laws, including an announced land reform decree, invoking "political delicadesa (propriety)."

Daza said the Laban anchored its May 11 campaign in the rural areas on a promise of genuine and broad land reform, adding that President should fulfill that commitment by preempting Congress and decreeing land reform.

"There is a sense of urgency and expectancy in the countryside for the passage of a land reform law," said Daza.

Mitra and Yap said the President has the broad powers to enact a law on land reform, adding that Congress should "back her to the hilt."

"We (the members of Congress) should let her do it," said Yap, whose district covers the 6,500-hectare Hacienda Luisita, a sugar estate owned by the President's family. Sugar and coconut lands are covered by the proposed law on land reform.

Backing Ms Aquino's initiative are the liberal-left bloc of the House, the Laban senators and other members of the House fiercely loyal to her.

Members of Congress from Central Luzon, the traditional hotbed of agrarian unrest, also support an early law on land reform.

Perez' stand has drawn support from other members of the House, from big landowners, political conservatives, oppositionists and those who simply want the President to stop exercising her legislative powers.

Prominent figures in the sugar industry, Romeo Guanson of Bacolod's lone district, and Hortencia Laguda-Starke of Negros Occidental's 6th district, lead the bloc of landowners opposed to the passage of an early law on land reform. Guanson and Starke are regarded to represent the conservatism that has been restored in Congress by the May 11 elections. Included in the group is Ma Clara Lobregat of Zamboanga City, a prominent figure in the coconut industry and a close ally of former Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile.

The opposition to the planned presidential initiative comes amid warnings that Congress may frustrate the constitutionally mandated provision on land reform, labor and social justice.

A member of the 1986 Constitutional Commission, Joaquin Bernas, S.J. last week expressed fears that a conservative Congress, which would blunt "dramatic" provisions of the Charter on land reform, labor and social justice, is emerging.

Bernas, president of the Ateneolde Manila University, asked President Aquino to preempt Congress and pass laws on these three areas to give flesh to the constitutional provisions.

The left has said it has little hope that Congress would come out with necessary legislation that would deal with land reform.

In its press statement, the BBC asked the President to consider seven recommendations the group of Catholic prelates and business executives had presented to her in a meeting in Malacanang on May 5.

The BBC's recommendations include:

- A land retention ceiling of not more than seven hectares per family.
- Conversion of haciendas (plantations) into collectively owned farms.
- Provision of easy-term loans and other support services to land reform beneficiaries.
- Encouragement of voluntary land-sharing schemes.
- Payment for lands on the basis of the landowners' declaration of market value for land tax purposes.
- Participation of the public in all stages of the land reform program.

The BBC statement said the recommendations were based on the results of consultations held by the group in 24 provinces and Metro Manila and on conclusions reached during a seminar workshop it sponsored on March 30. Officials of the Department of Agrarian Reform have said the draft executive order contained the BBC recommendations. They added, however, that the draft is still being "refined" and may still undergo several revisions. BBC co-chairman Mahai Mangahas is a member of the Technical Committee helping the government draw up the presidential edict on land reform.

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